

*The **BGCC** Story*

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The BGCC Story



Mission Statement

The goal of Burlington Golf & Country Club is to be one of the finest golf, curling and social Clubs in the area. As a member focused Club we strive to provide a consistently high quality of service to meet the needs of all our members. We place respect, friendship and community awareness as our strongest values.



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In order to ensure consistency and accuracy, all hole numbers
in this text are dictated by the 2008 course layout.

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The generous assistance and cooperation received from the many members, friends and directors of Burlington Golf and Country Club in the development of this story are gratefully acknowledged.

FOREWORD



Welcome to the Story of Burlington Golf and Country Club.

This is a very exciting time in the club's history to recall the BGCC Story. From the early beginnings the founding members identified a niche and capitalized on the growing popularity of golf following the end of World War I. We are very fortunate that they selected such a magnificent property nestled beside Burlington Bay.

Throughout our history the club has been innovative with its grass and course management and adaptable to the economic times of the Great Depression and World War II. They pursued member excellence by developing the curling section in 1959, building the second clubhouse in 1969, our third clubhouse in 2008 and introduced ongoing golf course improvements.

The Story is really about our members, professionals, management and staff who provide the heart and soul of a really outstanding club.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob".

Robert M. Bosshard
President 2007-08

Club Presidents

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|---------|----------------|
| 1922 | L. M. Appleford | 1957-58 | R. B. Hodge | 1984-85 | R. J. Barnett |
| 1923-28 | W. J. Southam | 1959-61 | C. J. McKee | 1986-87 | R. D. Monaghan |
| 1929 | W. J. Westaway | 1962-63 | J. W. Watson | 1988-89 | G. A. Ryan |
| 1930-31 | E. W. Besaw | 1964-65 | G. W. Gordon | 1990 | R. J. Mortimer |
| 1932-34 | R. H. Foster | 1966-67 | R. A. Nicholson | 1991-92 | G. A. McLeod |
| 1935-36 | F. W. Watson | 1968-69 | P. H. Erikson | 1993-94 | W. V. James |
| 1937-38 | J. J. MacKay | 1970-71 | R. W. Hannon | 1995-96 | C. D. MacPhee |
| 1939-40 | C. H. Isard | 1972-73 | J. F. Meehan | 1997-98 | R. A. Hall |
| 1941-46 | P. N. Asquith | 1974-75 | K. C. Cardiff | 1999-00 | J. R. Gordon |
| 1947-48 | H. S. Robinson | 1976-77 | W. R. Fleming | 2001-02 | P. E. Lawrence |
| 1949-50 | C. W. Cassels | 1978-79 | J. N. Walton | 2003-04 | J. L. Naidus |
| 1951-52 | R. S. Stone | 1980-81 | E. W. Anderson | 2005-06 | J. M. Lamb |
| 1953-54 | D. R. O'Reilly | 1982-83 | J. C. McKee | 2007-08 | R. M. Bosshard |
| 1955-56 | W. D. Heagle | | | | |

INTRODUCTION

For many years, the recording of the BGCC story has been a topic of consideration. Continually, old records fade or become misplaced and are lost and for a variety of reasons, some of our members find it necessary to exit the roster. Unfortunately, throughout this natural and constant evolution, the sense of our roots and the awareness of who we are become somewhat blurred and in some instances even misrepresented.

This book is presented in an attempt not only to place on record some of our club history, but also to capture its spirit and to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of its members and staff. This lush parkland bordering the heart of the city is truly an outstanding gem. But our club is much more than landscape; its heart and soul rest with its members. They are the BGCC story.

It is to the members of Burlington Golf and Country Club, past, present and future that this book is dedicated.



New 2008 Clubhouse



Destruction of the Elms

ORIGINS

The Evolution of Our Carolinian Wood Lot

Burlington Golf & Country Club is located in the North Shore watershed of Hamilton Harbour. This body of water has had different names at different times, Hamilton Harbour, Burlington Bay, even Lake Geneva in the early 1800's.



Luigi Gucciardi loading debris after a 20 minute storm, June 23, 1964 when approximately one hundred trees were destroyed

After the last glacier retreated about twelve thousand years ago the area evolved from prehistoric Lake Iroquois, through Arctic like tundra and Spruce tundra, to a Carolinian Forest. This type of forest was established in a band of land that stretched from the southern end of Lake Michigan to the western end of Lake Ontario. The moderating effects of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario allowed this type of vegetation to thrive far north of the Carolinas. The forests were dominated by Beech and Sugar Maple trees, Black and White Oak, Black Walnut, Hickory and even Sassafras trees. Various aboriginal people had inhabited this land before the United Empire Loyalists, who arrived after the American Revolution. The area became predominantly a farming area and thus the forests were cleared. By the time of Confederation, 50% of the forest had been cut down. This changed water flows and by the time of World War I, over 70% of the original forest had been cut. Scattered remnants of the original Carolinian forest only survived in valleys below the Niagara Escarpment.

The course lies in the watershed areas of Falcon Creek and Edgewater/Stillwater Creeks. Falcon Creek flows from the lower slopes of the Escarpment through gullies and ravines into Hamilton Harbour. Edgewater/Stillwater Creek is a small, urbanized watershed that originated from a swamp now occupied by the Aldershot Arena on Townsend Avenue. Higher temperatures and sandy loam soil give the course one of the longest golf seasons and varied vegetations in Eastern Canada.



1991 Flooding of the 16th fairway

As Andy Anderson and Frank Locke built the golf course, many trees were planted including the stately American Elm. These trees grew to significant heights and defined the holes so much so that #14 was named the cathedral hole because of the bank of Elm trees that bordered the western side.

Nature, however, has a propensity for change, upheaval and renewal. On June 23, 1964 a 20 minute storm uprooted and broke over 100 trees on the golf course, the majority being Elm trees. Tragic as this event was, the destruction to the Elm trees on this day was nothing compared to the devastation wrought by the Beetle that created Dutch Elm Disease during the 1960's when almost all of the American Elm trees in Eastern North America were killed by this disease. The only Elm of significance saved was the large one on #12 that, with its partner the White Pine (which is braced with iron rods), frame this hole from the tee. There are 2 other significant Elm trees surviving today; one on the south side of North Shore Boulevard and the other near the pro shop beside the parking lot. During the recent construction period, this tree provided shade for outdoor libations, after a round of golf.

With the loss of the Elms, many White (swamp) Cedars were planted and many Silver Maples propagated and grew. These trees have their own beauty but are a relatively short-lived tree and have the devastating habit of rotting out from the center of their trunks creating significant, potential danger. They are also very prolific and their abundant seed keys are a significant nuisance on the golf course.

In 2002, Greens Superintendent Pelino Scenna appointed member Doug Laister and Greens Assistant Tom Brain to inventory the trees on the golf course property. They located every tree on a map and commented on the condition of its health and its longevity. On the golf course property today there are over 75 different varieties of trees including Hickory, Copper Beech, Norway Maples, Black and Red Oak trees, Basswood and Geckos. Some of the Oaks on the 16th hole are about 150 years old.

In 1980, Greens Superintendent Steve Miller brought Jim Snow from the USGA to assess the condition of all aspects of our golf course. It is a service that this association developed specifically to help golf courses improve and solve problems. Our course was typical of many older golf courses at the time, greatly overcrowded with large, old trees and fairways and greens suffering from lack of sunlight and air circulation. Many of our members loved the big, old trees and the atmosphere they created. The trees created areas to sit under; they gave shade for walking on a hot day; they gave privacy to individual holes and they gave the feeling of the old Carolinian Forest. However, many of the trees were old; some were dying and others had become dangerous with unstable limbs. Also, because there had been no organized program in the development of the woodlot, many of the trees were actually unsuitable for a golf course because of extensive root structure, large overhanging branches and heavy growth at the base of the trees.

Jim Snow was succeeded by Dave Otis and the USGA has made an annual inspection, with recommendations for our golf course ever since that initial visit. In conjunction with Dave Otis, our Greens Superintendent, the Greens committee and the Tree subcommittee, a comprehensive plan has been developed for the woodlot with appropriate removals and plantings. A tree nursery has been planted and developed and sod nurseries are grown and re-grown. In 2004, a program authorizing the comprehensive plan for planting and removal of trees was passed and \$50,000 was committed annually for 10 years to rejuvenate the woodlot. In fact, we now have a rational plan for the culling and replacement of old, diseased and inappropriate trees.

The course has also presented other challenges over time as well. Recent climate changes have brought changes to the migratory patterns of birds. Many birds are foregoing their annual trek south and are wintering locally. The bay has become a year round home to a large variety of our avian friends. The large swan, duck and water fowl population along the shoreline is a wonderful enhancement to our walk through the golf parkland. To see a great heron fishing in the pond on #17 is indeed an enchanting finish to a round of golf!

Unfortunately not all of our feathered friends come without baggage. Certainly the increase of the Canada Goose population has resulted in some new maintenance problems. Part of the solution was the employment of Border Collies to patrol our Carolinian Woodlot. They are trained to encourage our geese to fly and land elsewhere. This program was introduced in 1994. Cody, an enthusiastic and effective employee was our first Border Collie. Unfortunately he was a little too dedicated and mistook a member for a goose. His employment was terminated and from the fall of 1995 until the summer of 1996 Tach roamed our fairways encouraging the geese to find other residences. Tach was owned by the trainer of these intelligent animals.

Lynx, our present resident bird controller, was born and trained while Tach was keeping our fairways clear (relatively) of our large national namesake. Our swift friend joined us during the summer of 1996 and has been with us ever since and his contribution to the health and cleanliness of our fairways has been significant. Lynx is now classified as semiretired (a term familiar to many of our members) but in coming years his younger “brothers” and “sisters” will, no doubt, carry on his proud tradition.

The Beginning

In the 1920's life in Burlington was good. Although still a small rural community, the town had grown dramatically since 1918 when the Great War ended. The townspeople were actively involved in new business ventures but farming was still the dominant occupation. In fact, history notes that Burlington had garnered the honour of being titled the garden of Canada. This was an ideal place for families to settle.

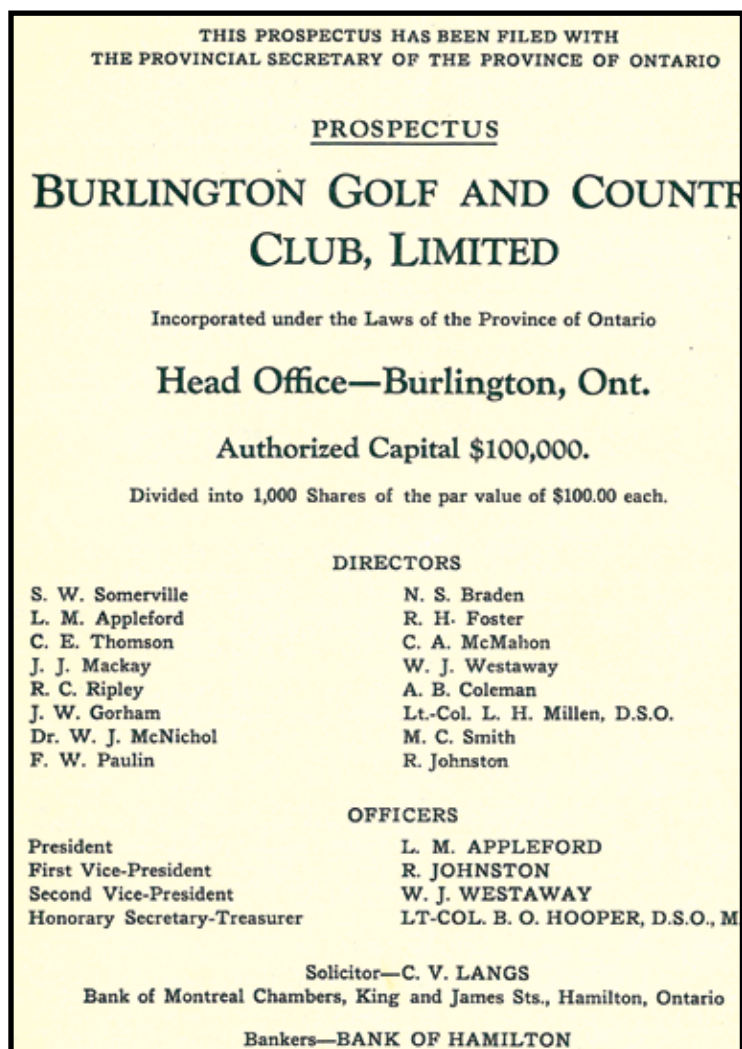
With thoughts of developing a country club in the area of this lovely community, a small group of prominent Hamilton citizens led by L. M. Appleford took a look at property bordering on the north side of the bay. It was ideal for what they had in mind. Beautiful land sloped gently down to the water's edge, blessed with rich sandy loam soil that was ideal for growing. These gentlemen were familiar with the area, for a few miles to the west was Wabasso Park, a beautiful 600 acre tract of land also right on Burlington Bay. This land was accessible from Hamilton by a ferry boat service or launch to docking facilities at the shore. Wabasso Park was renamed LaSalle Park in 1923.

Mr. Appleford and one of his business associates W. J. Westaway drove out to Aldershot on the Hamilton-Toronto Highway (Plains Road) and turned south on a country road (LaSalle Park Road). They were charmed by what they saw. The attractive countryside farm fields sloped gently down to the sparkling waters of Burlington Bay. It was clear from the start, this was indeed ideal for their country club dream.

Early in 1922, a provisional organization was established to study the possibility of funding a property for this new dream. The timing was perfect. The game of golf was attracting a tremendous amount of interest throughout the country. Led by the incredible talent of amateur golfer Bobby Jones and the colorful professional Walter Hagen, the game was taking over sports headlines all over North America. The game was developing in leaps and bounds in Canada and the Hamilton-Toronto area was no exception. Hamilton Golf and Country Club was already established and doing extremely well and this group of gentlemen, blessed with foresight and good business sense, could see the viability of their dream.



The Men Who Made It Possible



1922 Prospectus

The establishment of our club is a story of dedication and hard work by a group of successful business and professional gentlemen who gave unstintingly of their valuable time.

On January 23, 1922, twelve gentlemen from the Hamilton and Burlington area met at the Royal Connaught Hotel in Hamilton for the purpose of establishing a golf club in the vicinity of Burlington. This was an enthusiastic group who met virtually every week for many months. At this first meeting the group set out to enlist members, to investigate potential properties and to create a provisional board. During this first year, this provisional Board was led by L. M. Appleford, President; W. J. Westaway, Vice President; R. H. Foster, R. C. Ripley, J. J. McKay, J. W. Gorham and M. C. Smith. At the second meeting of this group on February 4, 1922, the name of the proposed golf club was unanimously declared to be The Burlington Golf and Country Club Limited and a directive was made to register and obtain the charter in this name.

This Board of Directors was built up to a total of 16 men by 1923 and the founders of the club were:

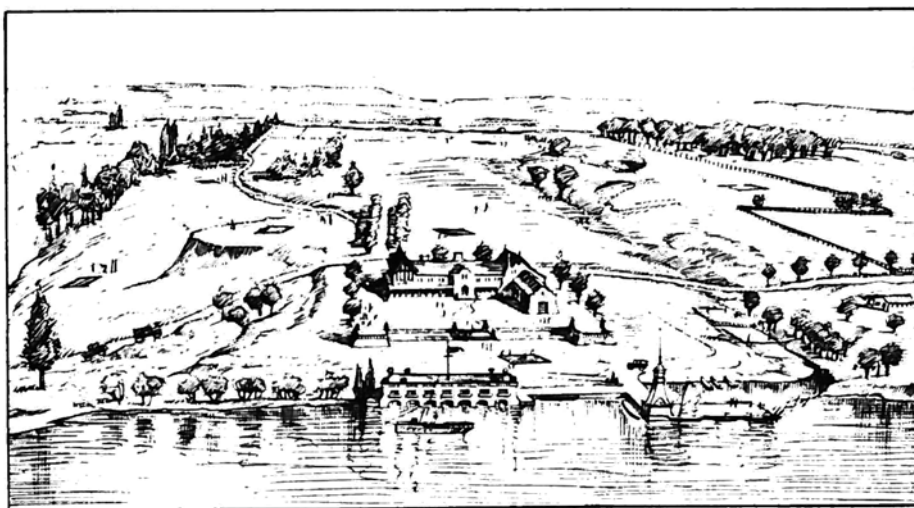
| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| C. E. Thompson | W. J. Southam | W. J. Westaway |
| Dr. W. J. McNichol | F. W. Paulin | R. Johnston |
| N. S. Braden | S. W. Somerville | M. C. Smith |
| Lt.-Col. L. H. Millen | R. C. Ripley | R. H. Foster |
| J. W. Gorham | J. J. MacKay | A. B. Coleman |
| C. A. McMahon | | |

Shares issued at \$250 per share were quickly subscribed for by many leading residents of Hamilton and Burlington. Both men and women had equal access to the purchase of the shares.

A Splendid Property

The Canadian Golfer, the official publication of the Royal Canadian Golf Association, reported in their June 1922 edition the following:

The new Burlington Golf and Country Club, sponsored by a number of prominent Hamilton and Burlington citizens, is situated on the Toronto-Hamilton highway just east of Wabasso Park, fronting on the bay shore. Many diversified attractions will be available for members, including accommodation for boating, swimming and all aquatic sports. A tennis court and bowling green will be available for members as well as an 18 hole golf course. No other club in the Hamilton district will combine the accessibility to the city with such excellent facilities for recreation. It will be a Country Club in every sense of the word.



Grounds of the Burlington Golf and Country Club

The club house site is on high land overlooking practically the whole course and commanding a beautiful view of the Bay, the City of Hamilton and the Beach. A more wonderfully entrancing situation would be impossible to imagine. The 18th green will be located on a gently sloping plateau below the club house, and the 18th fairway will be along the water front.

Three entrances to the property make it very accessible to Hamilton, Burlington and the Highway. Turning south from Aldershot on to Boulevard Road past Wabasso Park and through woodland glades of a mile and a half reaches the club house. A private right of way also passes through the property from north to south with entrance east of the Godwin house on the highway. Burlington and Beach residents can come in from the east on the improved Boulevard Road.

The \$250 shares have been generously subscribed for by many leading residents of Hamilton and Burlington, and there is now no question of the unbounded success of this most advantageously situated golf club. It is already an assured success.

From Six Farms

A site committee was formed at the first meeting of the provisional board of directors in 1922. Its mandate was to locate and investigate properties in the area of Burlington for this new enterprise. In addition, this committee was empowered to obtain outside expertise in its investigation of properties particularly with regard to soil types and the availability of water.

This committee reported on three initial sites known as the Sovereign site with 54 acres, the Long site with 60 acres and the Easterbrook site with 60 acres. Nicol Thompson, brother of architect Stanley Thompson, reported on the sites viewed and expressed that his preference was a sand based course and consideration for a good course could be laid out from the Sovereign site with 54 acres and 50 acres each from the Long and Easterbrook sites. The committee was then directed to explore other properties and viewed the Godwin site, Rose Hill site and the Easterbrook properties as well as two properties in Aldershot on Waterdown Road. The sites and their potential costs were duly reported. As well, further sites and costs were viewed and investigated and reported to the group at the weekly meetings.

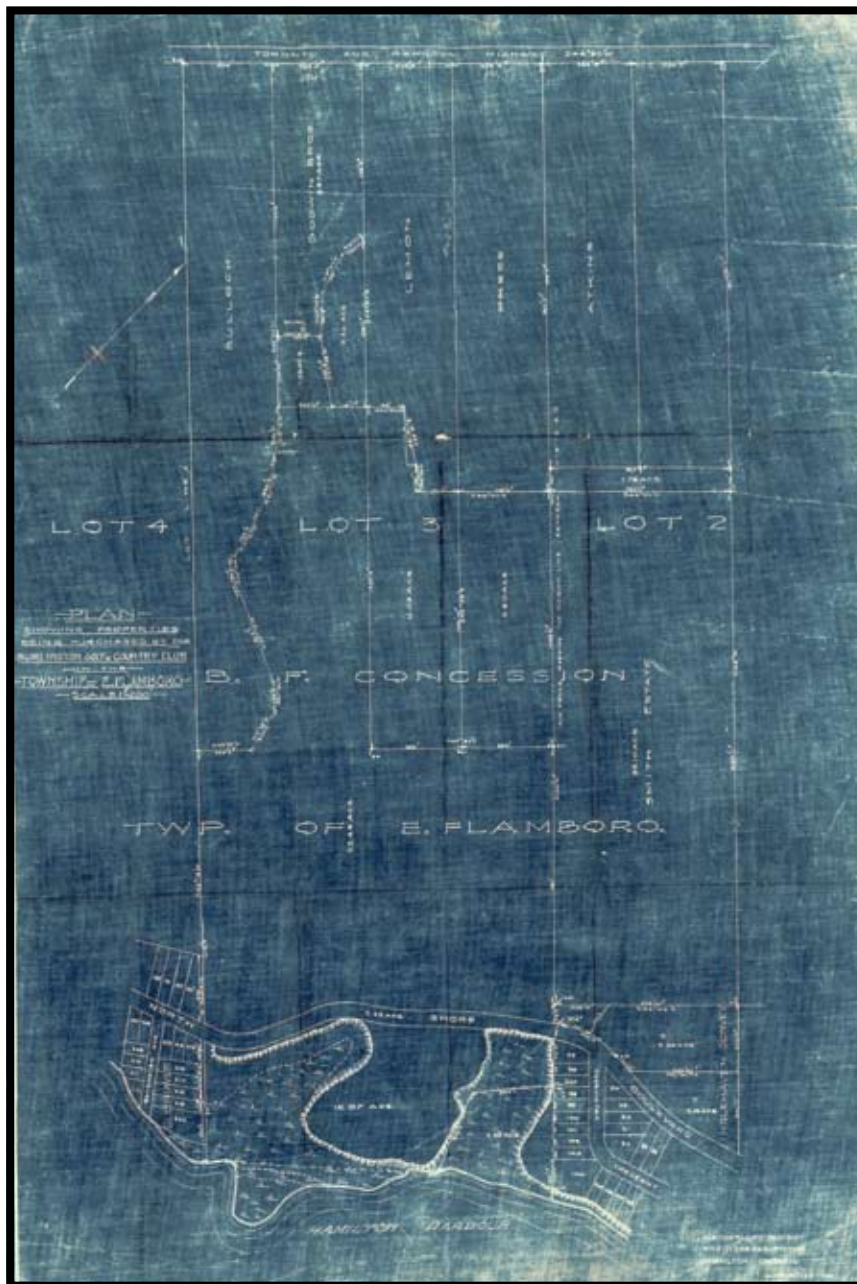
On June 7, 1922 the Board agreed to purchase portions of five principal sites and one small site for the assembly of the golf course. These assembled properties were on a sand base providing excellent drainage and bordered the bay front for unlimited water supply. In addition, the properties had been farmed by many generations for growing vegetables and fruit which would allow the course to be developed immediately without having to deal with the removal of woodlots.

The sites selected were:

1. Godwin Site – 73.34 acres – purchase price \$58,672
2. Smith Estate – 38.10 acres – purchase price \$28,576
3. Webster Site – 3.85 acres – purchase price \$7,900
4. Press Site – 9.66 acres – purchase price \$8,500
5. Lemon Site – 11.02 acres – purchase price \$9,918
6. Carse Site – 1.00 acre – 4 Shares of BGCC valued @ \$250 per share

As we know the course today, this was the initial property consisting of approximately 140 acres. On the north perimeter one of the main traffic access routes to the property was from the Toronto and Hamilton Highway (Hwy 2), now Plains Road, on a right of way through the Godwin property, This was relocated some years later to accommodate a request from the Godwin estate to enable it to sell its property. Townsend Avenue was developed much later as the community began to grow. In fact, in 1953, the Club dedicated a strip of land 33 feet wide to the Township of Flamborough for the final development of this street. On the southern side a few years prior in 1920, North Shore Boulevard had been created by land developer W.D. Flatt to open the lands along the bayshore for future residential development.

In 1930 the board was approached by the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club to purchase or lease land along the shoreline for a wharf to be built for boat docking. This proposal was rejected based on the determination to retain the property for the course and to protect the unspoiled view of the Bay. At the same time the board considered expanding the course for a further nine holes through the purchase of land north of the property. The site committee investigated the properties and reported that 65 acres would be required at a cost of \$1000 per acre for a total of \$65,000. This was deemed too expensive and the plan was abandoned. The condition of the club also dictated the sale of some small parcels of the course property for residential use along Townsend Avenue in the 1950's. Nevertheless the initial property purchase remains today basically unchanged in size.



The Six Farms



THE CARVING OF FINE LINKS

The Architect

Stanley Thompson

Stanley Thompson, the fourth of five brothers, was born in Toronto of Scottish parents in 1893. When he died in 1953 at the age of 59 he had designed or remodelled well over 100 golf courses. These included Brantford, Summit, Bigwin Inn, Thornhill, Islington and Banff Springs,



He was a larger than life character noted for his hearty manner and diabolical sense of humour. He was a craftsman, entertainer and artist all combined into a bouncing bundle of dynamic energy. He was a dapper man who always dressed well in a conservative suit, complete with a waistcoat, watchchain with fob and a fedora. He smoked big Cuban cigars and enjoyed fifteen ounce steaks. On the job, he traditionally carried a spike-pointed cane, a sketch pad and a flask of good whiskey. Stanley began his own design company at the age of 26. His brother Nicol and George Cumming, considered the “Dean of Canadian Professional Golf” completed the partnership of Stanley Thompson and Company.

On May 18, 1922 the new board of directors entered into a verbal arrangement with this company:

“To supply a contoured plan, complete specifications for construction of a course, plasticine models of built-up greens, sectional drawings of special features – in fact, all data necessary, so that you will be able to submit full specifications, etc., for contractors to tender to.”

On the evening of June 12, Stanley met with the board and presented his plans along with a plasticine model of the sixth green.

On June 22, Nicol Thompson and George Cumming communicated that they had:

“In conjunction with Stanley Thompson & Company Limited, made a general survey of the course, laid out and staked same and we have no hesitancy in reporting that, in our opinion, every advantage has been taken of the acreage.”

STANLEY THOMPSON & CO. LIMITED
GOLF AND LANDSCAPE ENGINEERS
24 KING STREET WEST
MONTREAL TORONTO CLEVELAND

MAY 18, 1922

THE PROVISIONAL DIRECTORS,
BURLINGTON GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, HAMILTON, ONT.

GENTLEMEN: ATTENTION MR. APPLEFORD:

CONFIRMING VERBAL AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT LAST NIGHT BETWEEN OUR MR. STANLEY THOMPSON AND YOUR COMMITTEE, WHEREBY, IN CONSIDERATION OF A FEE OF \$1,000 WE ARE TO LAY OUT A GOLF COURSE ON THE PROPOSED GOLF SITE AT BURLINGTON.

WE ARE TO SUPPLY A CONTOURED PLAN, COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COURSE, AND PLASTICINE, MODELS OF BUILT-UP GREENS, AND SECTIONAL DRAWING OF SPECIAL FEATURES FOR CONTRACTORS TO TENDER ON.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COURSE, AS SUBMITTED TO THE CLUB WILL HAVE THE FINAL JOINT APPROVAL OF MESSRS. NICOL THOMPSON, GEORGE CUMMING AND STANLEY THOMPSON.

AS REGARDS PAYMENT, WE WOULD EXPECT \$500 WHEN COURSE IS STAKED AND \$500 ON DELIVERY OF SPECIFICATIONS.

WE FEEL CONFIDENT THE RESULT WILL BE HIGHLY PLEASING TO YOUR COMMITTEE, AND THANKING YOU FOR THE COMMISSION, WE ARE

YOURS FAITHFULLY,
STANLEY THOMPSON & COMPANY LIMITED

Stanley Thompson

On July 8, Stanley communicated that he had forwarded the plans to Mr. McKay of McKay & McKay Land Surveyors.

At a meeting on August 11, the Special Committee, Burlington Golf & Country Club approved that Stanley Thompson & Co. be paid \$1,000 in full of the agreement for plans and specifications. A stone plaque commemorating the Stanley Thompson design now sits at the first tee. This impressive tribute was a gift to the membership from the Ladies' Section in 2003 to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the club.

The Builders

Andy Anderson, 1922-1930



Early Overview of the Course

To supervise the construction of the course, a Scot from Elie, Scotland, Andrew (Andy) Anderson, was hired. He had made his way to America in the early 1900's and was assistant professional and greenskeeper at Foresthill Golf Course in New Jersey, Bayside New York and had laid out a golf course at Glenburnie on Lake George. By 1921 he had emigrated to Canada where he became the professional at Grand River Country Club in Kitchener and prior to that he had been the professional at Glendale Golf and Country Club Course in Hamilton for two years.

He was engaged to interpret the plans and specifications and oversee the work at a salary of \$125 per month from Monday, July 31, 1922. He completed the building of the front nine in such good time that he received a handsome bonus of \$200. On December 6, 1922 he sent his application for the position of professional at this new club to Secretary, R. H. Foster, expressing "an urgency for presentation to the board because of the need to place an order for supplies immediately, to ensure delivery for the next spring." He then set about to construct the back nine which was completed in 1924.

Anderson spent the next several years improving the course he had so ably constructed. Fairways were rolled and cross rolled, tees and greens were raked and top dressed with soil taken from the ravines. Bridges were built, traps were constructed and fairways were widened. The construction of shelters, funded by member donations were approved and constructed. He continued on through the remainder of the 1920's. In 1927 his salary was \$2400. He had built 23 bunkers and enlarged 12 tees in just that year.

However, by 1930 members of the board decided to make some general changes in the management structure. The changes included:

1. Managing Secretary – in charge of operations and property, all employees under his direction – Frank Elliott, the current secretary was appointed to this position.
2. Superintendent of Course – in charge of the course and employees – Andy M. Anderson was appointed to this position. His salary was \$2,000 + \$800 retaining fee as a golf architect. (The board was trying to encourage Andy to take up this alternate profession.)
3. Professional – in charge of playing, starting, caddies and caddie master. The pro was to receive a salary and profits from sales and lessons. After a selection process, Harold Marsh from Montreal was hired. His salary was \$1,800.

This arrangement seemed satisfactory in July of 1930 but by the end of the playing season the board decided to make significant changes. They did not renew the contracts of Mr. Marsh or Mr. Anderson. They continued to pay Andy \$35 per week during January, February and March of 1931, but had placed an ad in the Canadian Golfer in October 1930 looking for a new professional and greenskeeper. It was noted that they would be satisfied with one individual for both jobs or two separate persons.

Andy Anderson ended up working at Dofasco. Paul Phoenix, long time member and former Dofasco CEO knew Anderson as a friend of his father. He remembers Andy taking his father golfing at BGCC and meeting him when he came to their house.

Frank Locke, 1931-1942

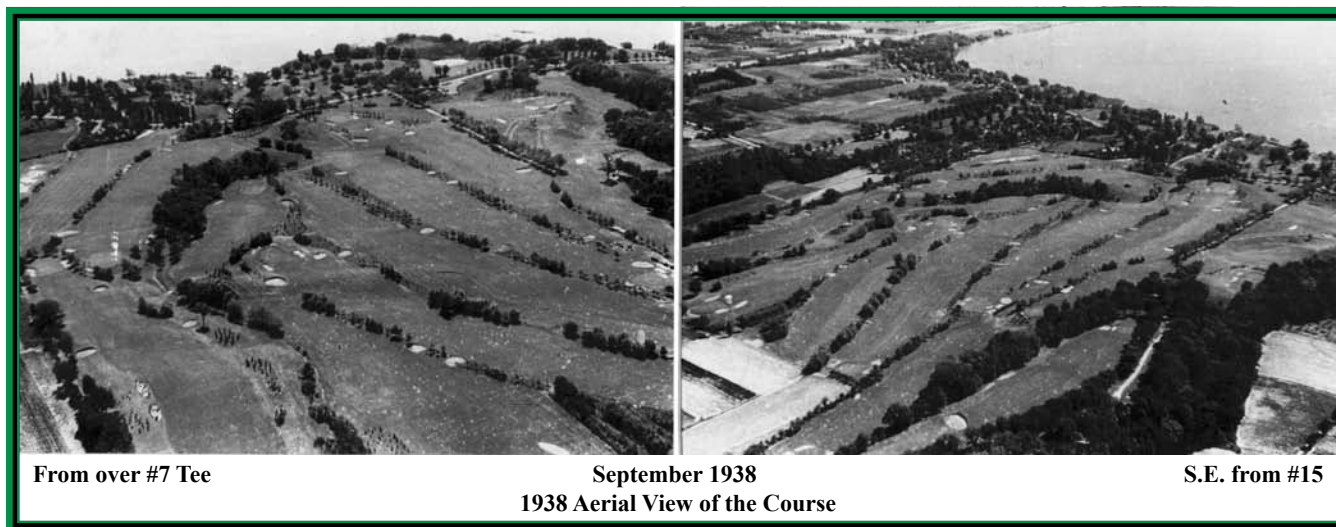
Frank Locke became the professional and greenskeeper in 1931 and remained in this position through 1942. During this period this man built or rebuilt every green and tee on our golf course. He lengthened several holes, constructed the bunkers with sand hauled from the sand beach that fronted the golf course and built several of the bridges for which this course became famous. Our present membership plays today on a golf course largely created by Frank Locke.



The Early #13 Green

The Greens Committee report for 1932 gives insight into the tremendous impact Frank Locke had on the golf course. His new accomplishments included two new tees at #16, the enlargement of #1, 10 and 13 tees and new bunkers for #7, 10 and 15. Shelters were built along with drinking fountains, a hydrant was installed near the Club House and the fruit trees were sprayed twice. A road was built through the marsh on the bay front to a sandy beach beyond the bull rushes. From this beach several hundred loads of sand were obtained creating a source of supply for some time to come. Unfortunately the course in later years would develop erosion problems around the bay area because of this removal. He also landscaped the property with evergreen beds and that fall about five hundred trees were planted. A new footbridge was built on #6 and a Creeping Bentgrass nursery that covered 5,000 square feet in the area to the east of #8 fairway was developed. When viewing these developments one must also keep in mind that this was the Depression and 1932 was the most difficult financial year for Burlington Golf & Country Club. The two bright lights through all this were the watering system that had been installed which carried the course through the dry, hot summers and the nursery of native Bent turf that was transplanted into the greens to overtake the Fescue which could not tolerate the heat.

The low point of the Great Depression was reached in 1934. Then economic conditions and confidence began to improve and in 1935 Frank Locke was able to continue work on the course. The putting green was rebuilt and the #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and part of #10 greens were resodded with Bentgrass. The officials of both the RCGA and the OGA who visited here said that the course was in as good condition as any in Canada. A new parking area was added as well. In 1936 #16 was rebuilt adding 15 yards to the length of the hole as well as #18 which added 90 yards to the length of the hole. All shrubs, trees and Bentgrass plants were developed in the nurseries right on the course. During 1937 Frank Locke was again a very busy fellow building new tees and lengthening the holes wherever he could. Bunkers were added and rebuilt and the parking lot was completed. A notable change in 1939 is one we still see today. #7 tee was set back 20 yards on Frank Atkin's property, with his consent and permission to use until such time as his property might be sold.



From over #7 Tee

September 1938

S.E. from #15

1938 Aerial View of the Course

The 1942 golf season was Frank Locke's last year at Burlington. This was a very difficult year financially for all golf clubs. It was the darkest year of World War II and memberships were reduced significantly. The OGA held a general meeting regarding these extreme difficulties. Mississauga and Weston Golf clubs collaborated and shared members, as did Lambton and Royal York (St. George's). BGCC was forced to reduce its expenditures drastically. Arrangements were made with Mr. Locke to pay him a retainer of \$25 per month. He had been engaged in another position but would be available on weekends and would serve in an advisory capacity to the club. This arrangement persisted throughout the 1943 golf season and on March 15, 1944 the board notified Mr. Locke that the retaining fee of \$25 per month would be terminated on April 30.

During the war years the maintenance of the course was considerably curtailed. Membership was down significantly, resulting in reduced resources. The golf course was forbidden to hire any new able-bodied male between the ages of 17 and 45 because golf was not considered an essential industry. The greens and tees were reduced in size and other necessary maintenance was kept to a minimum because of the reduced staff.

However, during the 1930's the tees and greens were positioned, holes were lengthened and trees were planted to develop the golf course as we know it today. It was Frank Locke, along with the direction of the Greens committees during that time, who made and positioned the greens and the tees; who lengthened many of the holes to their present configuration; who started the evolution of the grass; who planted most of the trees.

Frank Locke can be considered to be the father of the course.

The Refiner

Louis Cole, 1943-1974

Although during the war years the size of the staff was reduced and expenditures were kept to a minimum, Louis Cole was hired in 1943 as greenskeeper. From the beginning there was Louis, according to Louis! Both John Davis, former head professional, and Paul Scenna, former head greenskeeper, recall Louis telling them he had worked at the course with Andy Anderson from the beginning of the construction. Frank Easson Jr., son of long time steward Frank Easson, supports this opinion. Since Louis had learned his trade from the two Scots, the greens we see today have much of their genesis in Louis Cole. As Louis refined the course over the years the greens matured and adapted to the soils that had emerged from the old Carolinian Forest.



When Louis took command during the war years he inherited a course that was initially seeded with Fescue and Bluegrass. He had been involved with Frank Locke in introducing Bentgrass and the creation of the Bentgrass nursery. Louis' grass was his trade mark. He was famous for growing grass, even often consulting with members regarding their domestic lawns. The course eventually evolved into a large parkland. The grass was all the same length, with no distinction between rough and fairway. The tees were cut shorter and the greens shorter still (although longer than present). The greens were thus slower and steeper slopes were allowable. Louis loved grass and tolerated trees. If a tree endangered his turf it soon disappeared. Guests loved to come to play Burlington because their ball always sat nicely on the fairway, or in the rough, and the greens were true and slow enough to putt with confidence.

Louis was naturally inquisitive and so continued to learn about his craft. He annually attended the American Turf Care meeting wherever it was held in January or February and his reputation as a greenskeeper was far spread. Two of his staff left Burlington for jobs as head greenskeepers. In 1956, his son Ray became head greenskeeper at Glendale (and later at Royal Ottawa) and in 1957, Vince Picollo went to Brantford as their head greenskeeper. Several years later Pelino Scenna started his career in greens keeping at Brantford, learning his craft from Vince Picollo. So Louis not only helped to develop our golf course for 52 years but also through him passed all the knowledge of George Cumming, Stanley Thompson, Nicol Thompson, Andy Anderson, and Frank Locke to Pelino Scenna and now our present Greenskeeper, Tom Brain. Quite a remarkable chain of continuity!

Much of Louis still exists on our golf course. Our #14 green, completed in 1962, was one of Louis' major lasting achievements. John Davis regards this green as the best one on the course. The bridges were also one of Louis' major accomplishments. Some were even rebuilt twice.

A new fairway watering system was installed in 1956 which made the old water tower near the 6th tee obsolete. Interestingly, the engineer who supervised the installation was Bill Powell, the greens chair at Brantford. Vince Picollo went from Burlington, where he was being groomed to succeed Louis, to become the Head Greenskeeper at Brantford the next year.

Louis continued to shift tees and greens around until he retired in 1974, after 52 years. Bunkers were continually removed and installed. At one time #15 had two greens which were eventually amalgamated. The high fence alongside #8 green was installed in 1959 after two guests in Dr. Hopman's backyard were struck with golf balls.

When Louis retired in 1974, he left the golf course in wonderful shape. He had presided over the course when golf was still played with less sophistication. The modern ball and equipment had only started to impact golf courses at the end of his era. He still maintained the course as he had for 52 years and no one questioned his methods or results. Member Al Rust recalls that one time Louis started to grow the rough a little longer but the members had difficulty locating their balls in the rough and that practice was soon abandoned. It was indeed Louis according to Louis! The popular Louis Cole Tournament has been played out for many years in memory of this long-standing employee.

Member Hugh MacPherson's Recollection of Louis Cole

I have always enjoyed playing on our beautiful golf course on a warm summer evening before the sun goes down. On one of those occasions in 1972, I went out alone after dinner to play eight or nine holes. Having played out on #7 green, I was about to tee off on #8 when I noticed that Louie Cole had been following me and he was removing the flag stick on seven to deposit it in his small pick-up truck. I realized that I was the last player on the course and as was his practice, he was retrieving them as a security measure.

While setting myself for my drive, I heard him grumbling and muttering to himself and could detect some rather strong language. I walked back over to where he stood and asked if my late play was somehow bothering him.

He said that my play had nothing to do with him being upset, but that he was fed up with putting in long hours of work with little or no appreciation for his efforts. He got nothing but complaints and abuse from all sides even though he always tried his best to provide a well manicured and beautiful layout for the unappreciative members (which he did). He had decided to quit and find another job where he would be afforded proper respect and recognition for his work.

I cautioned that that would be a serious step to take and asked how long he had been an employee at the club. With a hint of a smile on his lips and a slight twinkle in his eye, he replied "fifty years".



1961 Aerial View

Post Louis Cole

After Louis Cole retired, the golf course stumbled through a series of changes; some were due to the general changes that were taking place in the golf course industry and some were due to the change in personnel at the club. Louis' son Bill was appointed Head Greenskeeper in 1974 following Louis' retirement.

At the same time, the Canadian Worker's Union appeared on the scene. This was not a large union, for it had only one or two other contracts but they managed to organize the Greens staff into a union and to have the organization certified. This required the golf club board to negotiate with the union representative. The union set up a trailer on North Shore Boulevard near the entrance to the clubhouse and the inevitable harassment of some of the members followed along with some mischievous acts both on the golf course and in the clubhouse.

The list of the workers' demands included:

1. Full playing privileges
2. Dining room privileges (paying 50% off the listed prices)
3. An order that members could not tee off if they would be interfering with the Greens workers

During the course of negotiations the workers decided to have a meeting to discuss the issues among themselves and they chose to meet in a local beer parlour. Once they left the golf course, they were deemed to have quit their jobs. This left the certified union with no workers to negotiate for and this spelled the end of the Canadian Worker's Union at BGCC. The board then hired a private contractor, a man by the name of Amers, to maintain the golf course. He was responsible for all the care of the golf course, including providing all the personnel. This arrangement lasted for 2 years.

The Guardians

Steve Miller, 1977-1984

By 1977 the world of golf was changing and impacting on private clubs everywhere. The golf world, under American influence and stimulated by the increased TV coverage of the sport, underwent a series of changes that contributed to the golf course we have today. During Louis' time, his course was not unusual in having no distinct differences between rough and fairway, in having slower greens with longer grass because of the lack of sophistication in bentgrasses and in having smaller tees and greens. This was because maintenance was more difficult with the more primitive equipment and course usage was much less. Also, over the years, there was no organized control of the trees on the woodlot as there was no emphasis on the importance of sunlight and air circulation for the growth of grasses.

The board hired Steve Miller to move the course into the modern era. He initially started a program of enlarging the tees and, eventually, some of the greens. While some of these changes were good, some had negative consequences. For example, enlarging the # 12 tee resulted in the creation of the present blue tee, completely changing the configuration of the hole.

The course was still greened with the Bentgrass introduced by Frank Locke in the 1930's which had to be propagated by stolons (two blades of grass joined by a root-like connection). These stolons each had to be implanted in the soil and were hugely labour intensive. This type of grass was developed in the Toronto area, known as Creeping Bluegrass C15, and was sold all over Canada and the midwest and eastern United States. At first the grass was quite successful but by the 1960's disease had started to wipe out large areas of the plants, so newer forms of Bentgrass were developed that could be propagated by seed.

During Steve Miller's tenure in the 1970's, a local company applied to the board of directors to be allowed to put some employees on the fairways after dark. These workers wore miner-type helmets equipped with battery operated lanterns and large cans that were attached to their legs. They moved slowly up and down the fairways picking dew worms! – a surprising sight for the late golfer and diner.

Steve continued as a contractor for Burlington for six years, becoming Head Greenskeeper in 1983. He made Burlington a pioneer in utilizing different lengths and types of grass for different areas of the golf course and certainly had left his mark when he moved on at the end of 1984.

Pelino Scenna, 1985-2006

Pelino became Head Greenskeeper on January 1, 1985. He had emigrated to Canada in 1956 from Italy and in May, 1957 started his apprenticeship in greens keeping under former Burlington employee Vince Piccolo, Head Greenskeeper at Brantford Golf & Country Club. He remained until December 1963 when he became Head Greenskeeper at Galt Country Club. Working there for 21 years, Pelino perfected his craft enhancing his reputation as a greenskeeper.



Pelino Scenna

When he first arrived at Burlington he found the grass worn out in many places. Every July large areas of grass would die out on the fairways and to some extent on the greens. In 1956 a new fairway watering system had been installed that pumped 350 gallons/minute, but by 1985 this system was in bad shape. Steve Miller had changed the sprinkler heads and had installed a hydraulic line, parallel to the system in existence, from the maintenance building. Unfortunately the whole course could not be watered in one day with 350 gallons/minute because of the sandy loam. If it rained once per week the grass survived, if not, the Bentgrass died. So the Bentgrass was replaced with *Poa Annua*, a grass that dies out annually in the heat of July; ergo large areas of dead grass. As well, *Poa Annua* grass lives off the thatch created by mowing. Pelino, immediately initiated aeration of the golf course to eliminate this thatch. He did this once in 1985 and in 1986 did it 3 times (After a few years the thatch was controlled and the fairways are now aerated once per year). However, proper watering procedures remained an issue.

To this end, in 1988 - 89 Pelino oversaw the construction of the pond in front of #18 blue and gold tees to create a reservoir that holds 1 million gallons of water from adjacent Burlington Bay. Here the water is allowed to settle, becoming cleaner, and to warm up. The best pumping station available, pumping 1,000 gallons per minute, was purchased. A double row Toro 8000 Irrigation system, also the best available, was installed by an outside designer, Jim Baerd. Much credit must be given to Paul Neelands, the Greens chair at the time, for moving this project forward. Now Pelino could broadcast Bentgrass immediately after irrigation and the seeds that fell into the protection of the holes could germinate readily. This method was started on the fairways and eventually practiced on the greens as well. In fact, the new seeder actually cuts holes and pushes the seed into the ground. Today the thatch is gone, the Bluegrass rough is thick and abundant, the population of Bentgrass is multiplying and the Poa Annua and other non-desirable grasses are being forced out. With an access to the source of abundant water in Lake Ontario, our large reservoir, our state of the art irrigation system and our inherited wonderful sandy loam, we have the possibility of having one of the best golf course turfs anywhere. BGCC is now a testimonial to this master of his trade; they are both simply among the best.

Tom Brain, 2007-Present

Tom was born in London, England and moved to Canada with his family in 1969. He attended local public schools in Aldershot before obtaining a Diploma in Horticulture, specializing in Turf Management from the Ontario Agriculture College, University of Guelph in 1993. Tom's working career started at Hamilton Golf and Country Club, and luckily for Burlington, he was lured to work alongside Pelino Scenna as 2nd Assistant in 1996. Tom was appointed Greens Superintendent immediately following Pelino's retirement in November 2006.



Tom Brain

In his early years at the club, Tom was directly involved in planting numerous juvenile trees in the tree nursery adjacent to #8 hole. He proudly relocated over 20 of those trees including Red Oaks, Tamaracks and Pines, on to the golf course in 2007/2008 as part of his recently implemented comprehensive tree management program.

Tom has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Long Range Master plan for the course and was intimately involved in the design and construction of the new Turf Care centre. He was instrumental in changing our turf-care practices over recent years to minimize stress associated with climate change and also initiated an environmental management plan for the course while working toward Audubon Society accreditation. Certified in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, his detailed knowledge of chemistry and biochemistry is most impressive.

As an accomplished golfer, he brings a player's perspective to his job and his initiatives on the golf course are already numerous, including innovative daily laser yardage markings on all par 3 tee blocks, new broken-tee holders and a new memorial bench policy. The numerous birdhouses visible around the course are another of "Brain's team" contributions.

Judging by the numerous rave reviews received from both members and guests about the ongoing excellent condition of the golf course, Burlington's future is definitely in talented and caring (green) hands!

With Bridges

One of the important features of any golf course is the ease with which one travels during a round of golf. Some of our fortunate members have wonderful memories of playing on a pleasant Saturday morning, walking with an “A” caddie carrying the clubs. There is no better way to play the game of golf or to just enjoy the proverbial “Walk in the Park”. This treat at BGCC is created by the topography on which the golf course lies. It is on a plain extending down to Burlington Bay, making it relatively flat and easy for walking. And yet, as any member will attest, the fairways are anything but flat; rolling, undulating, slanted in various directions, creating all kinds of lies.

As noted, the lands are traversed by the watershed ravines and valleys of Falcon Creek and the Edgewater/Stillwater drainage. These waterways create variety for the landscape, but do interfere with the golfer’s wander through the woodlands. To ensure a comfortable walk Frank Locke and Louis Cole constructed a series of bridges to traverse the changes in elevation. There were four major bridges; one over the hollow in front of the #1 tee, one over the swamp of #18 fairway, another over the steep ravine between #15 green and #16

tees and another, considered the most aesthetically pleasing of all, over the marsh in front of #17 tee. There was a smaller bridge over the creek in front of #2 tee, as well as several other small bridges at the #6 pond, between #13 and #14 fairways, over the creek on #15, and several dealing with the creek that wanders across and beside the #16 fairway. The bridges were attractive structures, on a rustic line, and Burlington members were rightly proud of them.



Bridge over the Marsh on #17

The bridge across the hollow on #1 was constructed by Frank Locke in 1936 for \$225. Louie Cole built the bridge on #17 in the fall of 1947. The fall of the next year he rebuilt the bridge between #15 and #16 (last rebuilt in 1989). The bridge on #18 was blown down by a sudden wind storm in 1972, and in the fall another quick, violent storm blew through Burlington and completely destroyed the bridge and also damaged the roof of the curling club. The bridge was strewn into several piles of rubble leaving only a twisted skeleton of its former self. This bridge was never restored and the present elevated cart path replaced it at a somewhat lower level.



Bridge on Hole #1

The bridges created a pleasant journey through a round of golf. They seemed almost of a different era, when life and golf were not so frantic. Alas, the bridges succumbed to the modernization of golf by that devil, the golf cart. The carts were tough on the bridges and the bane of Louie Cole's life. Frank Easson Jr. remembers that he seemed to be constantly repairing them. As the bridges and the caddies disappeared, the waterways were put into culverts and a network of cart paths was constructed.



The Only Large Remaining Bridge

THE STRUCTURES

Clubhouse

In The Beginning...

While the golf course was being constructed in the period between 1922 and 1924, the board of directors turned their attention to the Country Club component of this new venture. The general meeting of shareholders on March 6, 1923 approved the building of a modest clubhouse at an estimated cost of \$10,000. Mr. Cutriss' tender of \$10,725 was accepted on April 26, 1923. He agreed to complete the building by June 14, 1924 under a penalty of \$15 dollars per day for every day after this. He would receive a bonus of \$15 per day for every day before the 14th that he could hand the building over to the Club.



1st Clubhouse

The site for the clubhouse was chosen very carefully. This proved to be the best location on the property for the panoramic view of the bay, the view of the #9 and #18 holes at that time and the proximity to North Shore Boulevard. As well, in 1922, the shoreline had two large swamp areas that surrounded the site. The larger swamp area on the west side extended from the shoreline to North Shore Boulevard and the smaller swamp area on the east side extended from the shoreline to North Shore Boulevard. There was also a small sandy beach along this area of the shoreline. In 1930, the Board engaged the Huffman Company to dredge the swampy areas. The total cost was \$800 and one share of BGCC stock.

The high ground between the two swampy areas proved to be the logical site, even to this day for it now proudly bears its third clubhouse! Over time, the swampy areas were filled in and developed into reclaimed land. The first clubhouse was designed in the classic style of its day with English cottage overtones. Years later, the Ladies Section commissioned renowned local artist Frank Panabaker to paint this lovely building. The painting has always hung in subsequent clubhouses, a gentle reminder of our roots. The main floor of the clubhouse incorporated a lounge, dining, kitchen and ladies locker room. Unfortunately, the dining room could only accommodate 100 patrons so the party after tournament play was seriously challenged. The lower floor incorporated the men's locker room, lounge and pro shop. It underwent many changes over its lifetime to accommodate the changing needs of the members, including a screened verandah over the pro shop that was affectionately labelled "The Birdcage". As well, an apartment constructed on the second floor of the building became the home of steward Frank Easson, and his family. During this era, the clubhouse was a prominent facility in the community, patronized by members and their guests for dining and social gatherings including weddings, parties and other member functions.

In 1928, a pro shop and caddie facility was added to the back of the clubhouse. In August, 1931 a fire broke out in the pro shop destroying the building and much of its contents, mostly golf bags and wooden clubs belonging to the members. The loss was estimated at \$8000. The Burlington fire brigade prevented the flames from destroying the clubhouse with the help of the Hamilton brigade, who arrived after the flames were under control. With the growing interest in curling in Ontario as a recreation and social activity in the winter, a new curling rink was proposed to the members in 1958 and construction began in 1959. Because the site was located over the west swampy area, wooden piles were driven approximately 50 feet into the ground to support the concrete columns under the curling rink. The ice surface was augmented with a curling lounge together with a second floor above to serve as a separate members' dining room and function room. This two-story addition, complete with full basement, was built between the curling rink and the original clubhouse with the appropriate tie-ins for member access.

Secretaries and General Managers

In the early years, the General Manager of the Club was titled the Secretary but the job description has changed very little over the years. These gentlemen ensure that the business of the club is conducted in an orderly fashion and that the needs of the members are addressed.

NO 161

\$ 6⁰⁰ Burlington Golf and Country Club Limited BURLINGTON, ONTARIO 18th Sept. 1924

RECEIVED from Green Fees

the sum of Six Dollars

being in payment of account as set out here below.

| AMOUNT TO BE CREDITED | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Green Fees | V 326/4 * 2 329 | 4 | - |
| | 33 2/3 | 2 | - |
| | | 6 | - |

Burlington Golf and Country Club, Limited
A.G. Wilson
Secretary-Manager

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1924-25 | Arthur Wilson | 1977 | Richard Watson |
| 1926-44 | Frank Elliott | 1978-82 | Cy Benson |
| 1945-48 | Walter Tallmage | 1983-90 | Bryan Sparks |
| 1949-64 | Arthur Harwood | 1991-97 | Bernd Klahre |
| 1965-66 | Warren Smith | 1998-2001 | Ian Swinton |
| 1967-68 | Albert Ralph | 2002-03 | John Davis |
| 1969-70 | Connie DiFruscia | 2004-08 | Tony Padalino |
| 1971-75 | Hugh Bell | 2008-present | David DeSaverio |
| 1976 | Serge Hudyma (Acting) | | |

When the clubhouse opened in 1924, Frank Eason was hired as assistant locker room boy. He quit his full time job shoveling coal on the railroad and moved into the clubhouse. There never was an official change in his title although he lived in that clubhouse until the fall of 1965 when, after putting the golfers on the football bus, he passed away walking up the stairs to their apartment on the second floor. He was referred to as the steward or locker room manager, but he was really the Chief.



Frank Eason

In 1934 Frank married Jean Renwick, a Scottish lass. Jean always claimed, impishly, “because he needed a cook”. She did all the golf course cooking until the early 1950’s when a full time cook was hired. Both children, Frank Jr. and Betty Jean, were raised in the old clubhouse sleeping in the three upstairs bedrooms that were initially intended for golf members. In 1953, an apartment was built on this second floor bringing plumbing to this level for the first time. During the summer months the Eassons moved to a beach strip cottage to make room for the cooks hired annually.

The Eassons did everything necessary around the club, including helping Louis Cole shovel snow. After the course officially closed in the fall, Frank and Jean kept it open, providing sandwiches, etc. The revenue was shared with the club, supplementing both incomes. All the club’s meetings were held in Hamilton during that time. Frank would dress formally and take the bus into the city to handle the bar (Frank Eason never drove a car).

Frank’s major attribute was his remarkable memory. He handled the entire bar refreshments in a time when the town of Burlington was officially dry. He knew every golfer’s preference and had keys to all the lockers. No member was ever embarrassed with a lack of liquid refreshment as Frank juggled the whole inventory. As well, Frank would attend members’ homes to provide staff and service for private parties.

Reporter Ivan Miller dubbed Frank “Mr. Hospitality” in his Hamilton Spectator eulogy. He noted that “golf gave Frank a living he loved; he met people and made friends; his services were beyond the call of regular duty, endearing him to countless passers-by who became firm friends.”



The Gentle Era

A Time For Change...

The growth and prosperity of the community and the rise in popularity of golf in the 1960's, created a considerable amount of interest in the club from prospective members. Encouraged by this development, a proposal by the board was presented to the members in 1965 for a new clubhouse that included numerous amenities with a marina, stables and pool allowing it to serve as a full family activity facility. The membership soundly rejected the proposal. A later proposal for a health club under the curling rink with squash courts, gym etc. met the same fate. In 1968 a modified proposal for a new clubhouse was presented to the membership that was approved.



2nd Clubhouse

During that year, the club entered into a contract with the prominent architectural firm of Roscoe & MacIver Architects from Hamilton, for the design of a contemporary style clubhouse with a floor area of approximately 35,000 square feet. The design included a main floor dining room and reception lounge with full surround windows and an exterior deck for viewing the bay and the #18 hole. The kitchen was located on the main floor level complete with a dumbwaiter to service the three lounge areas on the lower level. The lower level encompassed separate lounges for men and women complete with adjoining locker rooms and a sauna room for the male members. There was also a slumber room off the male showers complete with couches with bedding designed as a cool-down area after a shower or a sauna. Many times, if the Steward did not check the room prior to closing, members found themselves sleeping at the club! The 1959 curling lounge facility was retained, modified and connected to the new clubhouse as part of this project and the original clubhouse was totally demolished.



Dining Inside 2nd Clubhouse

Upon design completion, lump sum tenders were requested from area general contractors. The contract was awarded to Wilchar Construction Ltd., an established Hamilton based firm with direct overseeing of the project by their President, Charles Juravinski, prominent today for his multi-million dollar donations to the Cancer Centre of Hamilton Health Sciences as well as other major donations to area community facilities. The members still enjoyed the full use of the golf course during the twelve month construction period and they had year-round use of the curling lounge together with a temporary members' facility located on the bay side of the clubhouse for dining and social activities. The clubhouse, complete with furnishings and equipment, was completed in 1969 for approximately \$900,000. The total financing was arranged through member debentures that were repaid by the Club to the participating members upon the debenture redemption date.

The 1969 clubhouse underwent various modifications over the years in order to provide better functionality for staff and members. A few notable changes occurred in the mid 1980's that included the conversion of the 1959 dining/function room over the curling lounge to three separate dining/function rooms named the Bayview, Joseph Brant and the North Shore rooms. As part of this conversion, two soundproof folding partitions were installed in this area, providing the flexibility to use this area as either separate rooms, two rooms or as a large single room. The other notable change was the construction of a new administrative and accounting office facility under the curling rink.



Pond Bordering 2nd Clubhouse

In 1989, with members' approval, the clubhouse underwent a major addition and alterations project that included the construction of a member's dining room, named the Fairway Room, a new lower level kitchen to service the lower-level lounges, modifications to the men's and women's locker rooms and lounges and the upgrading of the curling lounge. The club engaged the architectural firm of John J. Harkness Architect from Hamilton for the design requirements. Lump sum tenders were requested from general contractors in the area and the construction contract was awarded to the established firm of Canadian Engineers & Contractors Ltd. from Hamilton. This firm's founder, F.W. Paulin, was one of the original directors of the club!

During this construction period, the members had year round use of the clubhouse coordinated with the phased construction activities. The financing of this project was through a bank loan and all members were assessed a specific amount that could either be paid up front or spread over a seven-year period in order to retire the debt.

Today...

With a level of optimism for the future, Burlington Golf & Country Club is enjoying the rare opportunity in the life of a club to celebrate the past as we plan for the future and anticipate life in a new clubhouse.

The second clubhouse served the membership well for nearly four decades. As the building aged, a growing view within the Board was that the club and the members would be better served if a new clubhouse was built. This decision is not an easy one for a private club to make and often creates divisions within its membership. In 2003 the board presented a proposal for a new clubhouse. At a special general meeting the shareholder-members did not believe the financial condition of the club was strong enough and voted against the proposal.

At about this time, Tony Padalino was appointed the club's new General Manager. He brought considerable experience in running a diverse operation such as BGCC but his key strength was ensuring that the club was run in a cost effective manner. Through his decisions, the financial condition improved to such an extent that the club set a new standard in fiscal responsibility for a golf club.

The condition of the clubhouse was a continuing issue for the board. Joe Lamb, President 2005-06, constituted the Long Range Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Tony Paine. The mandate of this committee was to evaluate three options for the clubhouse: minor renovations, major renovations or construction of a new clubhouse. These options would be presented to the shareholder-members and they would select with which option to proceed.

In October 2005 a special general meeting was convened. At the meeting members proposed a motion to have the option to pay the lump sum capital levy on a monthly basis and having accepted this motion, the membership approved the proposal to build a new clubhouse with a budgeted cost in 2005 of approximately \$8.5 million. The financing of this project was through a bank loan and members were assessed a capital levy designed to repay the loan over a fifteen year period.

The design intent for the new clubhouse was to celebrate the unique location of the Burlington Golf and Country Club. Views of the bay, the Skyway and escarpment beyond are unrivalled in Southern Ontario. With a foreground of the spectacular finishing hole, there is no greater backdrop for members of a private club in the Greater Toronto Area. The location of the new clubhouse is exactly where the founding members in 1922 thought the clubhouse should be positioned. The club engaged clubhouse award-winning architect Richard Wengle, Project Manager Scott Kirby of Symphony Golf, and entered into a construction management contract with Frey Construction. Bob Bosshard, President 2007-08, also acted as the Chair of the Design and Construction Committee for the third clubhouse. Bob's perspective: "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me to actually lead the team that built the new clubhouse, and to be President at the same time was exciting".

The functional design was built around the concept of a “club within a club”. This would allow members to continue to enjoy the club’s facilities at the same time as banquets are held in the 250 person function space. The main level also includes a member dining room with an adjacent private dining room and a members’ bar overlooking the two finishing holes. The lower level includes the men’s and women’s locker rooms, both identical with steam rooms. The mens’ and womens’ adjoining lounges with views of the course and Burlington Bay, were designed as one space. One day when the time is right the dividing wall might be taken down to create one lounge. Just like the second clubhouse, the 1959 curling lounge facility was retained and extensively renovated.

The second clubhouse closed on February 23, 2007 and this marked the beginning of the year of transition. Temporary accommodations were set up in two trailers in the parking lot, one for food and beverage and the other for the club’s administrative staff. The chalet was also upgraded. A seating area was set up around the chalet to allow members to mix and mingle informally before and after a round of golf and new friendships were created along the way. Weatherwise, the summer of 2007 was the best summer in 50 years.

The first phase of the project asbestos abatement began on March 5, 2007. This was followed by the demolition of the second clubhouse. Construction of the new clubhouse started in June 2007 with the new clubhouse opening to members on July 14, 2008.



Tearing Down the 2nd Clubhouse



Bottom’s Up!

The Pro Shop

In the early 1920's, the golfing experience was new for many members. They acquired their clubs and other golf equipment through the pro shop, as it was the only source at that time. The selection was very limited and in most cases the clubs had to be ordered, a very different scenario from the wide selection that is readily available today.

The first pro shop was located in the lower level of the original clubhouse and it was quite small with an adjoining area for club cleaning and storage. These were the days of the small leather bags – long before pull carts or power carts. In 1929, the men's locker and shower room was enlarged in the lower level of the clubhouse, taking over the area of the pro shop and club storage. A new 22' x 40' pro shop addition was constructed at a cost of \$2,000 on the west side of the clubhouse on the lower level, overlooking the marsh. It contained a small office, a merchandising area with two studio couches and a club cleaning and storage area. This addition was designed by Hutton & Souter, the architects for the clubhouse and "was intended to take care of the pro's needs for all time".



1952 Proshop

In February 1952, the members approved the construction of a new 30' x 60' facility on the north side of North Shore Boulevard. It was completed in May of that year and contained a merchandising area facing the parking lot, a backroom bedroom for occasional use by the assistants, club cleaning and storage area, work room and washrooms. A few years later this pro shop was modified and the merchandising area was relocated to the far end of the building facing the first tee. The bedroom was converted to an office and a small screened in halfway house addition was incorporated to provide the standard fare of hot dogs, sandwiches and drinks.

In 1989, the members approved a new pro shop facility. The old pro shop was demolished and replaced with the pro shop and chalet facility that members enjoy today.



The Professionals

It has long been recognized that golf lessons are basic to the development of any golfer, regardless of talent or desire. Even in the early days of the construction of our course, founding members were seeking advice for improving their game. Andy Anderson, an accomplished golfer himself, managed to fit in lessons while he was overseeing the construction of the course and continued to do so while he was superintendent. But by 1930 a significant number of members were seeking a pro with a more singular focus.

Harold Marsh, 1930-1931

Harold Marsh followed Andy Anderson for one year. He came from Montreal and was really the first true professional.

Frank Locke, 1931-1943

The combined roles were reintroduced when Frank Locke was hired as professional and Greenskeeper in 1931 and he remained in this combined profession through 1942.

Bob Burns, 1946-1946

When Frank Locke left in the spring of 1943, the world was still at war and because golf was not considered an essential service no pro could be hired. Following the war, the board decided they should have a real professional—one who would run a shop with golf equipment for members and be capable of good golf lessons. Bob Burns was hired in 1946 but his contract was not renewed for 1947.

Bill Chinery, 1947-1957

W. K. (Bill) Chinery came to BGCC with fine credentials. According to John Davis, he was originally a local boy. The four years prior to his arrival at Burlington he had been the professional at Sunningdale Golf Club, in London, Ontario. When the board hired him, Bill had lived on a golf course all his life. During the winter, he was also the professional at Rockley Country Club in Bridgeport, Barbados. During the next ten years, Bill applied his trade at BGCC. His protégées included Jackie (Moro) Rosart and



Bill Chinery



1948 Captain's Committee

Frank Easson Jr. Bill was a wonderful teacher and would spend from early morning until dark on the side of #10 teaching almost anyone who would listen to him. At that time this fairway was very large and it was Bill Chinery who started using this area for teaching. Following Bill's initiative, it developed into our present driving, practice and teaching area.

He often would play a round of golf with his pupils and Jackie Rosart remembers that Bill also often brought the same caddy with him. She was not impressed with the fellow and asked Bill why he always chose him. Bill responded that he was his best. The caddy was Dominic Rosart. Jackie obviously changed her assessment as time progressed!

Bill also attracted good assistants. Ray Murray, who went on to become Glendale's professional and a private teacher for many years, started with Bill. So did Al Balding, who served with Bill in 1949 and 1950 and went on to become one of Canada's preeminent professional golfers. There is a story about Al Rust and Ray Murray when they were assistants in the old pro shop at the back of the club house. Ray had a fold down bed in the shop and had placed a new very expensive pair of golf shoes under it. Al accidentally lowered the bed and cut the shoes in half. Ray was upset but replaced the shoes. Al lowered the bed again, unintentionally. And again, he chopped the shoes in half. The last Frank Easson saw of either was Ray chasing Al across the #11 green!

Bill Mawhinney, 1958-1959

On November 8, 1957 Bill Mawhinney was hired as the 6th professional and he stayed for two years. He was an excellent, competitive golfer. This is really where his interest lay and he was reasonably successful at the national level.



Bill Mawhinney

John Davis, 1960-1992



John Davis

In 1960 John Davis came from Manoir Richelieu where he had been professional for one year to become BGCC's head professional. Prior to that he had been at Beaconsfield Country Club in Montreal, having risen through the ranks from caddy to assistant pro.

Part of John's training at Beaconsfield included giving lessons to the Junior members. Burlington member Howie Neville remembers those lessons and John's golfing ability. He recalls that when he was a junior at Beaconsfield his ambition was to be able to play golf like John Davis, whose handicap would have been scratch at the time. Many years later, after John's retirement as pro at Burlington, during a round John and Howie compared handicaps. Both had a handicap of 12. Howie notes that this was not what he had in mind.

John is a talented golfer who for many years played to that scratch handicap. He smoothes an excellent putter, particularly if a nickel is on the line. He regularly plays with both members and his fellow professionals – managing to improve his financial standing on most occasions.

On a casual trip with a friend at the age of 20, authorities discovered that John had American citizenship. He was then offered the opportunity to join the US army rather than being drafted, so he was posted to Germany rather than Korea. He enjoyed the experience and rose to the rank of Sergeant before his tour of duty was up.

John remained the club professional for 32 years and he can recall countless humorous incidents which he tells with wonderful deadpan humour. One of the favourites includes a tale of the sixth hole. As at any golf course, some Presidents and Greens chairs attempt to build monuments on the course to themselves. One good example was chair Carl Bastedo's flower patch on #6, between the pond and the green. John recalls that while playing the hole one day a companion's ball landed among the petunias and he inquired of John as to how he should proceed. John, in his usual dour manner, noted "You take your wedge and play it out of there".

Another time, John was playing with the Club President, Roy Nicholson, when Albert Gregory, a long-time, very unkempt cutter of the grass of fairways and rough, approached within 20 yards on #10, to watch them hit their shots. Roy, a very friendly and outgoing golfer, inquired of Albert when they could play a game. Albert quickly informed the President that he would not play with him because he was a hacker!

John also remembers a storm producing a significant accumulation of water in the valley on #18. In short order, his whole backshop staff had vacated their duties and were seen diving off the bridge that existed at that time on the north end of the valley.

It was in John's era that the now familiar shotgun came into practice. The Hamilton Spectator reported in 1962 that:

"On September 20, a unique and novel system of play event for Hamilton District was played at Burlington Golf & Country Club. It was called a shotgun. This was a nine hole tournament that enabled all players to have lunch together. John Davis, professional, started the tournament with a shotgun blast."

Over the years John has held every office in his professional organizations. He was instrumental in obtaining and developing the Royal Oak Golf Club in Titusville, Florida: a winter home for Canadian professionals. He enjoys an excellent reputation among his fellow professionals and his retirement dinner was held with an overflow crowd of golfers after the championship round of the popular John Davis Tournament.

Trevor Fackrell, 1993-Present

Trevor Fackrell was born in London, England and at age four moved with his family, to London, Ontario. He started playing golf at age twelve and by the time he was eighteen he was working for Mike Silver at Highlands Golf Course. During the next 7 years Trevor stayed with Mike and also attended Western University. Rosedale Golf and Country Club was Trevor's next stop, where he was the assistant professional for four years. In 1993, at the age of 29, Trevor started his first year as head professional at Burlington. We are very fortunate for Trevor is still with us today. The professional shop is one of the best run anywhere and he enjoys an outstanding reputation among his peers.



Trevor Fackrell

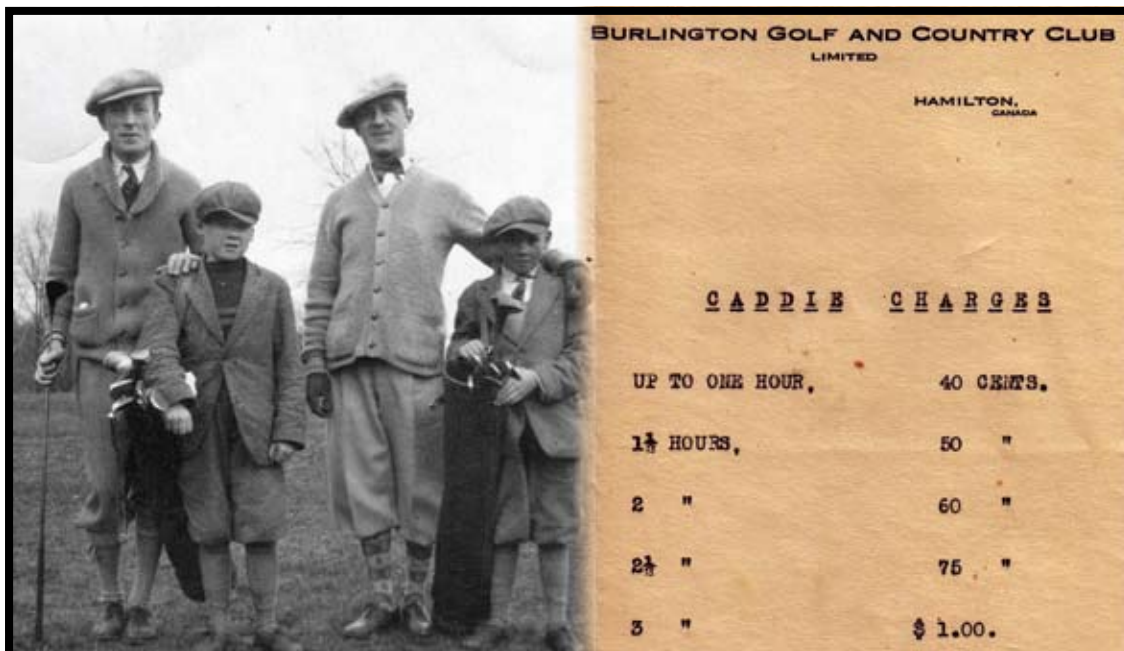
Trevor Fackrell and John Davis have provided BGCC with a most enviable record. They both have been awarded lifetime achievement awards as an outstanding professional from the CPGA of Ontario. We are the only golf club in Ontario to have had two professionals win this prestigious award.

Caddies

Caddies were an integral part of the golf scene in the 1920's. The caddy shack, which adjoined the clubhouse, was constructed at a cost of \$790 in 1928 and one year later a Caddy Master and Starter was hired for \$27.50 weekly with an additional end of season bonus of \$2.50 a week. One of the original Juniors, K.B. Paulin, recorded that caddies were paid 50 cents for 18 holes but some members paid only on the condition there were no lost balls. 25 cents was the usual deduction for a lost ball. Caddies carefully studied whether the member was a hooker or a fader, how far he usually hit, his temperament, etc. Forecaddying became an art and quite often the player got a preferred lie if it meant an extra dime tip. He went on to note that the caddies rarely lost a ball!

Silver King, Kro Flite, Penfold and Tamblyn were the popular golf balls. The Tamblyns were not proshop balls and were regarded as a dead give away as to the lesser status of the member. Tasks back at the caddy shack included keeping a close watch over member's golf clubs. If the wooden shafts were not regularly used it was necessary to sight down the shaft and make repairs by bending the shafts to a more straight position.

Several years later, 12 year old Frank Easson Jr. started as a caddy. He would carry two bags on occasion for 75 cents per bag. Caddies were rated A, B and C and the member was asked to fill out a rating card at the end of the round. It was always difficult to move up to an A rating because the member was not always willing to pay more money. One member always had a wager on his game and was willing to pay the caddy an extra 25 cents if the ball never ended up in the rough. This member also paid an extra 50 cents if his ball was never lost. Several years later Frank moved to the back shop. In addition to the normal duties, refinishing wooden headed clubs was a big part of their job. Bill Chinery, the pro at this time, would have Frank shag balls for him when he practiced. The practice area was where it is now except there were no trees along what is now #10 fairway. Consequently, Frank received many balls in the back from members hitting their second shot as he was facing the pro on the tee.



These young caddies would end up competing for their jobs periodically, because if there was a labour dispute in Hamilton, the workers would show up to caddy as this would become their only source of unemployment income. A notable example of this occurred during the Stelco strike in 1946. However, there were rewards as well. Caddies were permitted to play golf on Mondays and there was an annual tournament and banquet. Some pros down through the years would even give lessons to these budding young players.

On the other side of the coin, there also could be some issues with these young people. In 1943, the caddies were difficult to control, running wild and refusing to wear their identification badges, so Captain Jackson was hired as Caddy Master. He lasted two weeks. Signs were then posted:

“Caddies are barred from the course for the balance of the season subject to prosecution for trespassing”
–By Order, Board of Directors

Additional signs were posted in the locker rooms:

“Members or Visitors are requested not to employ any caddies. They have been barred from the course for the balance of the season”
–By Order, Board of Directors

Al Rust remembers starting as a caddy in 1947. This was his summer job for two years. There were about 15 caddies working under the professional, Bill Chinery, at this time. The caddy shack had been moved to the side of the present #18 green but the caddies preferred to wait near the pro shop. The remuneration was \$1.00 – although sometimes less. Al also recalls sleeping over on the studio couch in the pro shop on many occasions throughout the summer to be ready for the next day of caddying and club cleaning.

Member John Rosart remembers his days as a caddy when there was a melon farm between #7 fairway and King Road, or Hwy #2 as it was called at that time. The caddies would occasionally verify the quality of the crop as they were passing by!

Caddies remained a fixture at BGCC until the 1960's, when improved pull carts became very popular. Members were very proud of their foldable “Bag Boy” pull carts. However, these became a problem for storing in the backshop due to the limited space, so stackable pull carts were purchased by the club and these became the only pull carts allowed on the course. In addition, it was proving very difficult to develop caddies to the “A” level. Part time jobs in the community were providing better wages and members continued to be reluctant to adequately pay for their services.

The first three power carts were purchased by Golf Pro John Davis in 1962 as the board was not in a financial position to acquire them. A few years later, member John Lawson purchased one of these power carts from the pro shop in order to travel to and from his home on #8 green. The power carts were an immediate success with the members and as the daily demand increased so did their numbers.

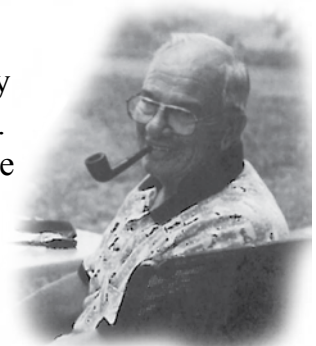
With the choice of good pull carts or comfortable power carts, the caddies soon disappeared.

Starters

Imagine arriving at the first tee, perhaps with some approved guests or your regular foursome and simply teeing off on a first come first served basis – golf heaven!! This was early BGCC. But before long the first tee was besieged with problems. The board was busy writing letters scolding members who were abusing this gentlemen’s rule of starting. Also, the temptation to play without a membership was proving too much for others so in July 1923, James Fletcher of Hamilton was hired as a Starter and he doubled as Caddy Master as well. A starter system was put into place to confirm that those who arrived at the first tee with their invited guests were bona fide members.

A starter hut was ultimately built near the first tee as shelter for the starter during golf hours. Commensurate with the rise in popularity and the frequency of play, a tee time system evolved for an orderly first tee send off by the starter. This role was filled in the 1970’s by Tom Dunmore and he enjoyed this position so much that he usually worked six or seven days a week. He also could be found playing the course with the early Club 60 group. He was very popular with the members because he had a very kind and gentle manner in his approach to this challenging task. He ruled the first tee from his perch in the starter’s hut complete with the signage “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”.

Another very popular starter was Art Hearnden, who always had a story at the first tee and was always happy to receive a story to pass on to others. His pipe was part of his dress code and he was also known to share his pipe tobacco with his fellow smokers at the first tee. As well, he had been a Lancaster navigator in World War II and could be readily coaxed into a war story or two.



Art Hearnden

John Davis’ label of “best damn starter anywhere” clearly belongs to Don Taylor who was blessed with the exceptional ability to envision the entire course and the exact location of its players. Don’s course was always moving in a smooth and seemingly effortless fashion. He treated every golfer with the same friendly, unassuming and sincere interest and became everyone’s friend. His golf career spanned from Caddy to Caddy Master, Head of Back Shop, Assistant Professional, Head Professional to Starter. He also had the rare ability to accurately analyze and correct the most troublesome swings. When this gentle man greeted you at the first tee, it really set up your game. Don retired in June, 2005.



Don Taylor

The starter’s shack today is occupied by King Yates, who has the distinction of being the only employee to be struck by lightning while working with the greens staff.

Turf Care Facilities

The first Turf Care Centre was constructed in 1925. It was located on the present site of our new 2006 Turf Care Centre and was very primitive both in size and standards. It was a small wooden structure approximately 12' x 20'. This location was chosen for road access. Over time, electrical and water services, telephone service, sanitary septic system and underground fuel tanks were installed. The original facility housed the Greens staff, storage for some equipment and an small area to maintain equipment. As there was inadequate interior storage, most of the equipment was stored outdoors throughout the year, with maintenance in the spring prior to the growing season.

Andy Anderson, the first Greens Superintendent supervised the construction of this building. At the same time, upon a request by Mr. Anderson, the club purchased a horse to be used for numerous chores associated with developing and maintaining the course, particularly the construction of the bunkers. The horse was stabled on the property and was used by the Greens staff for a number of years. Both members and staff referred to the building as 'The Barn'.

In the mid 1970's, the Board decided to upgrade the original Turf Care Centre with a facility that would properly house both staff and equipment and allow for year-round maintenance of the equipment. This would reduce the high cost of maintaining and replacement of equipment that previously had to be left outdoors. A report was prepared by the Greens committee to define the proper size and location on the property. After exploring four different locations, it was concluded that the best location for the new facility would be the present location as it already had an access road, services, underground fuel tanks, excellent safe routing for equipment both to and from the course and adequate table land.

A new 6,000 square foot facility was constructed at a cost of approximately \$60,000 in this period. The membership approved this capital expenditure and a modest assessment was paid monthly by each member for less than two years to retire the debt. This new facility encompassed an office, staff lunchroom/locker room, men's and women's washrooms/shower rooms (in anticipation of future women employees) carpentry/paint room, grinding room for the sharpening of blades, service bay with a hoist to maintain equipment, as well as a sizeable storage area to house all equipment, parts, tools, materials, etc. Braemar Building Systems, York, Ontario under a design-build contract constructed the new facility and it was completed on budget.

During the late 1990's and early 2000's, various Greens committees studied the need for a larger and more up-to-date facility in light of new, stringent government regulations covering staff facilities, safety in the work place, environment issues with respect to wash downs of equipment, the disposal and treatment of this waste water, as well as the adequate safe storage and dispensing of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc. Over a span of seven years, these committees proposed various solutions but none were enacted.



Making the Tee Blocks

In 2005, a Greens sub-committee under the leadership of Steve Pickfield was formed which concluded that a new or enlarged facility at the same location was necessary to satisfy both the needs of the Greens staff as well as to meet current government regulations. It was concluded that the best approach would be to expand and upgrade the existing facility, due to its ideal location, while allowing the staff to occupy and operate out of the facility in a phased construction program. The new facility would be enlarged to approximately 12,000 square feet with a budget of \$920,000. The membership unanimously approved the proposal and the total funding came from the capital reserve with no further assessment. In the fall of 2005, the construction of the new Turf Care Centre began and was completed in the spring of 2006. This time frame created a smooth turnover for both the Greens staff and the contractor during the non-maintenance period of the course.

The new facility houses almost 5,000 square feet for storage and a further 7,000 square feet of administration office, superintendent's office, separate men's and women's locker rooms and separate washrooms/shower rooms, lunchroom/squad room, grinding/welding room, carpentry/paint/irrigation room, two service bays with hoists, parts room, wash down bay, fertilizer room, chemical dispensing room and a water treatment room. The existing ventilated chemical storage container to house all types of chemicals was relocated to the north end of the facility away from the staff quarters on the south end. A new water treatment plant was installed to receive, treat and recycle all water from the wash down of equipment that occurs on a daily basis. This treatment plant operates 24/7 throughout the year and ensures there is no wash down water leaving the facility and entering the ground and the nearby creeks, thus complying with all current environmental regulations.

In addition, a new water line, fire line with hydrant and a sanitary pumping station and line were installed from connections at Townsend Avenue to the facility, a distance of over 1,000 lineal feet. The access road from Townsend Avenue was widened and re-stoned with adequate routing for fire truck access and turn-around. A new gravelled parking area was constructed on the south end of the facility and the surrounding grounds were landscaped to blend with the course. The 2006 facility was designed by Thomas Gluck Architect and was built by Braemar Building Systems from York, Ontario and was completed on schedule and on budget.



2006 Turf Care Centre

The Greens staff now consists of approximately 24 full and part-time employees. The turf equipment used for the maintenance of the course and the property has evolved from the days of the horse to the present with the latest technology available. The club currently owns and rents state of the art equipment and tools.

The care and maintenance of the golf course and the grounds are delivered on a daily basis. However, there are challenges both scheduled and unscheduled created by nature. This encompasses downed tree limbs and debris, removal of trees, course drainage, irrigation disruptions etc. that have to be dealt with, while still maintaining the course and grounds in top form for the enjoyment of the members. Our greens staff has consistently and promptly serviced these challenges to provide the parkland course that we all enjoy.



Paddlewheels

These water paddlewheels were donated to the club. The intent was to possibly set one or more of them in place along the Edgewater Creek that runs from #6 pond along the east side of #5 fairway principally for aesthetic purposes. What a great idea!





Golfing With Style



1952 Ladies of the Club

LIFE & TIMES

Ladies Of The Club

Women have always been an integral part of the club, their section having been established in 1923 by the founding fathers. The Executive, as a standing committee, is actually defined by its own set of by-laws and representatives sitting on board committees have been encouraged to take an active role in the committee decision-making process. The Ladies' Executive has diligently remained attuned to the needs of the club, while continuing to promote and protect the interests of its women members. The first annual meeting was held April 20, 1925 in the Chamber of Commerce Room, Hamilton, with twenty-eight women in attendance. Twelve women took executive positions and with very few members, these women served for extended years. Today's Executive consists of nine members, each serving for four years. The total membership now averages 200 women.



Mary Grace Rigby

The cost of membership for women in 1924 is noteworthy. Dues were \$15, house privileges were \$10 and the charge for lockers was \$2 for the season. For golf, they wore skirts below the knees and hats with full brims. They were always addressed by their husband's name, for example Mrs. William Smith. Fashion today has women golfing in comfortable shorts, skirts, or slacks and in the 1960's Sally Smith became the order of the day for addressing females.

From the beginning, ladies were always able to purchase shares in the club but they did experience some difficulty in accessing the tee. In May 1924, Kathleen Regan wrote to Mr. R. Foster, Secretary of the Club, to complain that "ladies who are stock owners in the Club are getting rather a poor show in being able to use the links so little". She did conclude though, that, "Sundays and Holidays I certainly think the ladies are better out of the way". The Greens committee did give permission in October 1924, for lady players to be allowed the privilege of the course from 3:00 p.m. Saturday and 2:00 p.m. Sunday for the balance of the season. Normally, in 1924, ladies had playing privileges on weekdays, Saturday to 1:00 p.m. on the first tee and after 4:00 p.m. In addition, there was an unwritten law on Sundays and Holidays that they could play after 4:00 p.m. As well, women in the 1950's were finding it difficult to play their matches because men were constantly starting their rounds on the tenth tee. In 1958, the Ladies' Executive made a request to the board that #10 tee be closed between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This request was deferred. Even as recently as April 1962, the Ladies' Executive wrote to the Board, stating that while few women were seen on the course, there were many women, wives of male golfers, on the wait list. Therefore, they requested that 12-15 lady golfers be admitted to membership. After considerable discussion, the question was deferred for one year.

The rules for female participation in the early governance were also very explicit. The by-laws in 1924 stated that “Ladies shall not be entitled to take part in the management of the club”. As late as 1947, it stated that “Lady players shall give gentlemen players the right of way”. As well, women members were entitled only to the use of the rooms set apart for them by the board House committee. They were able to use the clubhouse for afternoon teas and luncheons only at such times and subject to the regulations as prescribed by the House Committee. Audrey Cook, a member since 1937, remembers that before 1950, women did not have to be a shareholder, but in that year, women who were not wives of shareholders, had to buy treasury shares for \$100. These shares gave the ladies voting rights. However, they were not encouraged to attend the meetings or to vote although when R. S. Stone and W. D. Heagle were board presidents, women were encouraged to come to the meetings. Their wives, Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Heagle, had been Ladies’ President in 1943-44 and 1951-52. When the share structure was reorganized in 1962, women were asked to return their original shares and were then issued a Class B share plus nine Class A non-voting shares. There was no female representation on the board of directors until Mary Willard was elected in 1992 and in 2003 Joanne Naidus became the club’s first female president.

Ladies’ Executive Presidents

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|------------------------|
| 1924 | Mrs. W. J. Montague | 1953-54 | Miss. A. Cook | 1980-81 | Mrs. R. W. Lister |
| 1925-26 | Mrs. H. A. Robertson | 1955-56 | Mrs. A. R. Armstrong | 1982-83 | Mrs. D. H. Gates |
| 1927-28 | Mrs. W. J. McNichol | 1957-58 | Mrs. E. R. Hume | 1984-85 | Mrs. H. E. Macpherson |
| 1929-30 | Mrs. L. H. Millen | 1959-60 | Mrs. B. V. Minns | 1986-87 | Mrs. W. J. Bell |
| 1931 | Mrs. F. W. Paulin | 1961-62 | Mrs. A. F. Nelligan | 1988-89 | Mrs. J. Ruddy |
| 1932-33 | Mrs. E. A. Cale | 1963-64 | Mrs. J. A. Murray | 1990-91 | Mrs. W. G. Clark |
| 1934-35 | Mrs. N. Eyres | 1965-66 | Mrs. C. C. Knapman | 1992-93 | Mrs. J. K. Hicks |
| 1936-37 | Mrs. I. L. Beley | 1967-68 | Mrs. J. Swarbrick | 1994-95 | Mrs. Janet James |
| 1938-40 | Mrs. W. F. Nicholson | 1968-70 | Mrs. J. Fraser | 1996-97 | Mrs. Dotty Delaney |
| 1941-42 | Mrs. W. J. W. Reid | 1971-72 | Mrs. R. W. Brown | 1998-99 | Mrs. Leila Reaume |
| 1943-44 | Mrs. R. S. Stone | 1973-74 | Mrs. D. G. Irvin | 2000-01 | Mrs. Jean Redgrave |
| 1945-46 | Mrs. C. E. Howard | 1975-76 | Mrs. D. H. Munro | 2002-03 | Mrs. Cheryl Carruthers |
| 1947-48 | Mrs. A. W. Fraser | 1977-78 | Mrs. J. P. Morton | 2004-05 | Mrs. Donna Tufford |
| 1949-50 | Mrs. C. T. Jackson | 1978-79 | Mrs. N. S. Marshall | 2006-08 | Mrs. Diane Regan |
| 1951-52 | Mrs. W. D. Heagle | | | | |

By the early 1990's, the expectations of the general public regarding human rights were dictating the necessity for change to ensure that needs were met especially with regard to equal rights. Although public golf clubs had long been accepting equality, private clubs were considerably behind in this respect. Burlington Golf and Country Club began an initial study of Equal Access in 1993. The board of directors, under President Bill James, formed an Ad Hoc committee comprised of members of the board, Membership Committee chair, Mary Willard, and the Ladies' Executive to determine the level of change and to present recommendations for board action. Several key factors supported this need for change, including the creation of a standard of fairness with regard to tee access, dues and individual choice. As well, it was clear that there was a need to react to changing work patterns, attitudes and values. Previously, men and women had no opportunity of mobility or access to their level of membership. After several informational meetings where the proposals were presented and critically discussed, the input was assimilated into a final proposal. The access to play was changed from three distinct categories with basically unrestricted categories for men and restricted ones for women to a policy where all members had equal access to the membership category of their choice. Burlington Golf & Country Club was a leader in this social change among private golf clubs.

The women of BGCC have always worked diligently to improve both the physical environment of the clubhouse and the spirit of its members. A classic example is the commission of the painting of the original clubhouse by Frank Panabaker, which is today one of the club's most favoured treasures. When the second clubhouse was built, Paul Erickson, President 1968-69, noted to Mrs. J. A. Fraser, Ladies' President, that "The Ladies' Executive has enthusiastically supported the new clubhouse and have had a large say in the decorations and the furnishings". The goal in the fifties was to have the Ladies' Lounge air-conditioned! In the eighties, the Ladies' Executive started to hold yearly galas to raise money to decorate and furnish their lounge. These events became the social highlight of the year. Eventually, the board, in 1995, assumed the costs of maintaining the Ladies' Lounge.

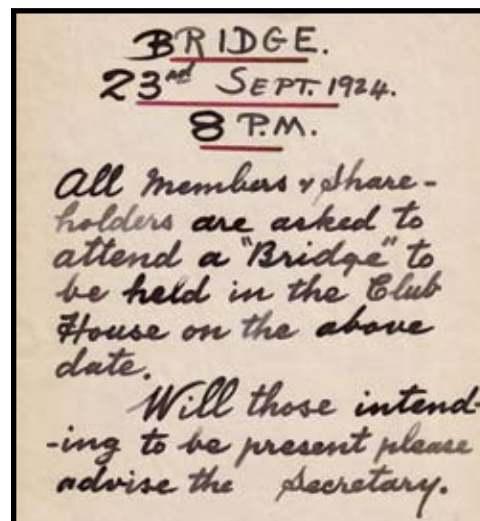


In the 1980's, the Executive undertook the decorating of the clubhouse for Christmas. These decorations were beautifully created and represented many hours, both in planning and execution, along with the help of many women volunteers. The end result encouraged considerable trade in luncheons and evening parties. December weddings were arranged specifically to take advantage of the ladies' work. Our women were also actively involved in all aspects of the design and construction of the new clubhouse creating a beautiful environment for members and guests.

The women of Burlington Golf and Country Club have always had a rich history of hospitality. Newspaper articles and photographs tell of tournament participants being hosted at teas and garden parties in the homes of the Ladies' Executive. Coffee parties, hosted by the president, were among other frequent events that welcomed golfers to the annual invitational tournaments. For years, the ladies hosted dances, teas, fashion shows and bridge games and these activities were frequently highlighted in the social section of local newspapers. From the early days, our women have promoted the very concept that now has taken over the golf world – it truly is about the total golf experience.

The Social Scene

The Hamilton Spectator reported in 1922 that “There is a great need and the community can support a high class Country Club. Aquatic sports, bowling, tennis, squash, dining, bridge, dancing and the social end of the club proposition are just as important (as golf) and should have the most careful consideration. Burlington Golf & Country Club has certainly lived up to the hype and has been a beehive of activities since its inception.”



The Men's and Ladies' sections were formed when the first nine holes were completed in 1923. Records show that golf tournaments were organized along with very popular social events such as teas, dances and bridge. The dress code for golf was strict with men in plus fours with knee socks and ladies in full skirts and long sleeves. To ensure compliance A.B. Coleman, owner of the Brant Inn, provided several large rooms as dressing rooms until the clubhouse was completed. The Ladies' Closing Day dinner that year cost \$2.50. Club rules were as strict as the dress code. For example, Section 7 stated that “Members shall have the privilege of taking their children to the Club restaurant not oftener than twice a month”. Junior members and golf professionals were not allowed in the premises.

The Social life underwent great challenges in the 1930's as the country slid into the depths of the Great Depression. Members found it increasingly difficult to justify expenditures on fun and games as companies declared bankruptcy and breadwinners faced unemployment. Membership numbers dropped at a worrisome rate. World War II brought further challenges as all hands were called on deck to serve the war effort and golf courses did not fit the job description. Tournaments were cancelled and social events suffered the same fate.

By the 1950's the club was on the rebound. The war was over, men and women were able to indulge in their love of sport and the social life that accompanied it. One highlight was the Ladies' Invitation Golf Tournament that was followed by an afternoon tea. The formal serving table was adorned with a lace tablecloth and 50 yellow roses were arranged in a silver bowl with President, Miss Audrey Cook, presiding. As well, an Annual Spring Ball with bright decorations and spring flowers everywhere was hosted by the Ladies' Section. Dress code was optional and the cost was \$10.50 per couple.



Audrey Cook
Our longest member

Bridge started again in 1954. It was usually held once a month and was always well attended by members and guests. Bridge continues today and is popular with our members. The various types of games include: duplicate bridge Wednesday evenings, lunch and party bridge, Kidd-Piercy Marathon trophy bridge (since 1968), men's morning week-day bridge and couples bridge. Imagine the scene; as many as 75 tables of bridge, 300 ladies crowned with perky little hats poring intently over their cards! As well, in 1959 a Bowling League of 10 teams was formed with bowling taking place at Brant Alley. At the end of the season, a bowling banquet was held at the club when prizes and awards were presented.



Kidd-Piercy Trophy

It was a well organized league with President A.R. Armstrong commenting how encouraging it was to have an organization for the goodwill of the members. During the winter months members and their guests would gather to dance the Saturday evening away to the spritely, sweet music of the favourite club orchestra.

Study of the records makes little note of the fact that the club, up to this point, did not have a liquor license because the spirit of the temperance movement (prohibition) lingered. The "Birdcage" in the clubhouse sold juice and soft drinks but no beer or wine. When member Bob Black joined the club in 1959, he was introduced to the Chief Steward, Mr. Frank Easson, who took him on a tour of the club. In the men's locker room Mr. Easson made a special point of emphasizing that "this is a gentlemen's club. Notice there are no locks on the locker doors". Since the club did not have a liquor license, the members kept a bottle of their favourite in their lockers. Should you require another bottle, as this was a gentlemen's club, you could borrow it from a friend's locker. However you were honour bound to replace it. The police did occasionally check for liquor violations, however they always called the day before arrival. One day Bob noticed Mr. Easson in conversation with two gentlemen in suits. When Bob returned to the locker room a few minutes later he found Frank in tears, with his face in his hands. Bob was informed this was no longer a gentlemen's club and shortly thereafter locks started to appear.

The acquisition of the liquor license brought some definitive changes to the social scene in the 1960's. When the new clubhouse opened, because of the delay and inconvenience, the board decided to celebrate with a champagne and buffet party free of charge to all members. Old timers will tell you this was some party! The Ladies' Section celebrated their 40th Anniversary by inviting every Past President to Ladies' Opening Day. Golf and dinner were the order of the day but these events took a back seat to reminiscing about the good old days. Two hundred and fifty members and friends attended this social event of the season. Traditional events were observed including Christmas, Easter, Valentine's and New Year's which included a spectacular nine course gourmet dinner, party favours and champagne at midnight. Special events included Anti-inflation nights (family dinner and movies) and After Taxes night with spare ribs, deduction stew and dependent greens. The attire—the shirt on your back!!

The pattern of the 1960's with its traditional events continued through the 1970's and 1980's. The etiquette of the club still maintained much of the formality of its early days. Members Norm and Pat Allen fondly remember the late 1970's when Norm had brought Pat as a guest to enjoy the facilities of the club over a two year period. The entire staff had automatically referred to her as Mrs. Allen. One can only imagine the surprise to both members and staff when they had their wedding reception at the club on June 7th, 1980! The highlight of the social calendar in 1992 was a Blue Jays Dinner Dance with celebrity Tom Cheek, popular Jay's game announcer. Members attired in new or old baseball togs led the Blue Jay cheers and song. Contest winners took home prizes for their interpretation of "Dancing Cheek to Cheek".



**Dotty Delaney and Tom Cheek
Dancing Cheek to Cheek**



Pamela Eves

During the 1980's the Ladies' Section presented a yearly "Spring Fashion Show" for the enjoyment of members and their guests. Fashions were featured by local business merchants such as Michaels, The Parlour, Toni's and Milli's. The fashion shows reflected a statement as refreshing as spring itself through a collection that offered endless options to the attentive audience. Also featured was brightly coordinated attire for the golf links assembled by Professional Lynne Allan and modelled by golf members. The elegant Pamela Eves, also a golf member, professionally commentated these very successful fashion shows, with DJ Cal Connolley providing background music. These events continued to form the social calendar of our members until the 1990's.

Special Guests

Guy Lombardo

In the late 1940's and 50's when the Guy Lombardo band played at the Brant Inn, the incentive and contract conditions included "playing privileges" at Burlington Golf and Country Club.

Royal Visit

Queen Elizabeth visited the clubhouse during her Canadian Tour in 1962. She was welcomed to the club by President, J. W. Watson (wearing chain of office as mayor of a surrounding municipality).

Charlie Pride

In 1992, Eric Fowler, chairman of the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital Tournament, arranged for special guests to play and perform at the dinner. Charlie Pride and Tommy Hunter played a practice round with Eric and Bob Bosworth on July 26th, a few days ahead of the event. Unfortunately, Charlie Pride was called back home on the day of the event (August 13) and Hagood Hardy, noted musician, filled in for him. Hardy proved to be a great golfer as well as an outstanding entertainer.



**Royal Visit
Photo: Ontario Dept.
Travel & Publicity**

The 90's were very exciting years with a variety of fun-filled events. The club was ready to party and the Ladies Executive was ready to take up the challenge.

“Circle B Roundup” 1992. Western was the theme with hoe-down line dancing complete with horse saddles, cowboy hats, jeans, neck scarves, ranch chow and boot stompin' music by Wayward. There were 152 country dudes at the old corral, including a few Wild West drifters hangin' around, but the frontier lawmen were there to keep them pea pickin' critters in line. Talented entertainment was provided with vocal renditions by Bob Ewin, a staff member, as well as Margo and Ed Wraight. The evening, convened by Janet James, was a great stompin', rompin' success.

In 1993 the look became more formal. It was feathers and sequins everywhere. This was the **“The Roaring 20's Dinner And Dance”**. Party goers wore 20's costumes featuring fringe, satin and lace and miles of pearls. Dixieland music accompanied Charleston dancers. The theme was black and white. Gift baskets were raffled with proceeds going to the Ladies' Section to assist with the furnishing of their lounge. Dotty Delaney thoroughly enjoyed convening this fun evening.



Laurel and Hardy (George Leyland and Bud McClean)

Ship Ahoy Mates & Maties – Welcome aboard the EMS Burlington. The **“Lido Deck Party”** held on Saturday, June 11th, 1994 was a swash-buckling success. The Golf Club was transformed into a sea of nautical décor with a Brant Inn flavour featuring “Big Band” music and paper bag booze. A fleet of 164 sailors attended the dinner and dance with a special appearance of Captain Hook. Leila Reaume convened an evening of swishing and swaying enjoyed by everyone.

“Phantom Night” – Saturday, June 10, 1995 was an amazing evening of mystery and intrigue. The Clubhouse was transformed into a mystical theatre staged with incredible lighting designs, beautiful floral tributes and impassioned music. Dinner by candlelight was an extravagant dining experience featuring a sparkling dessert. Special appearances by the “Phantom” and a group of talented singers called “Show Stoppers” added a dramatic spirit of romance to the theme. Several fortunate ladies were chosen to dance in the embrace of the mysterious master. The dinner dance was a spectacular phantomonious evening with wine, red roses and dancing to the “Music Of The Night”. This outstanding event was convened by creative Jackie Wells.



“Come To The Vineyard” – 1996 was fun, festive and fantastic with strolling minstrel sounds, wooden crates and wine barrels everywhere. A panoramic scene of grapevines and grapes on the dining room windows created an artistic display. “Viva L’ Italia” was a magnificent dinner dance with red and white checkered tablecloths and green décor. Grapevine hanging from the ceiling created a festive aura of drinking vino, playing bocce ball and making wishes at the Trevi fountain. Rose Scherle, convenor, gave a demonstration of an “Italian stomping on grapes”. Hilarious!!!

In June 1997, the premier event was, **“The Golden Elegance Gala”**, a black tie dinner and dance. A commemorative china plate displaying a picture of the first Clubhouse was presented to 170 members in attendance. This grand gala convened by Jane Hamer was the Ladies’ Section’s contribution to the 75th celebrations.

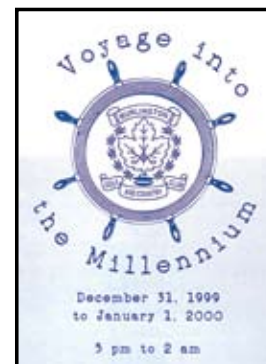
The next year, 1998, featured the “Greatest Show On Earth”. **“Under The Big Top”** was a dinner dance with circus sights and sounds everywhere. The mood heightened by Jack-in-the-box sentries, red and white striped awnings, original Barnum and Bailey posters and hundreds of balloons enhanced the performance of the high wire Trapeze Artist. Clown faces floated above the metallic rings of ribbons over the Big Top tables. Old and new friends shared a delicious dinner and danced the night away to the Rolls Royce of bands, “The Royz”. The circus concept was challenging and the implementation was mammoth but convenor Marianne Cleminson met the challenge with success.

Hollywood!!! Here we come!!! **“A Night At The Oscars”**, 1999 starring the fabulous Royz Band and movie star look-alikes created the atmosphere of “You don’t have to go far to dance with a star”. What a production! On June 5, a jewel-studded collection of ball gowns and tuxedos gathered with all the glitz of Tinsel Town for the gala. The Ladies’ Executive rolled out the red carpet for famous stars including interviewer Joan Rivers, Marilyn Monroe, the Blues Brothers and Laurel and Hardy. A 5-Star menu featured Mae West Cocktails, Valentino Pasta and Oscar Crêpes. For one night everyone could dream and feel like a star. A special star to Cheryl Carruthers, our “Cher” for this award-winning event.



Sonny & Cher

The 21st Century **“Voyage Into The Millennium”** 1999/2000 “Star-Lite Ball” welcomed the New Year – a new century – a new year full of things yet to come. Passage was secured aboard the BGCC voyage into the 21st century by embracing the year 2000 with a showcase of stars featuring glamour and glitz – a spectacular cabaret show on the main floor and lower decks. All hands were on deck for the gourmet buffet of “Foods of the World”. On board entertainment featured – Quatro Voce String Ensemble, The Trio Musical Group, Slight of Hand and Close Up Magic, Legends of Berg Comedy Review, Party of Five Dance Band and The Laura Hutton Dance Band. The event was an exceptional millennium experience which will go down in the Club’s history books as a most anticipated and satisfying evening. Truly the bash of the century!



“Heehaw Hobo Hoedown” was held in June, 2000. From the moment that Burlington Bert, the Hobo Valet in his inimitable fashion ushered the Heehaw Hillbillies and Hobos up the drive to the front stairs where Lynn Gerry, the “littlest hobo”, greeted them and sent them in to meet Miss Minnie Pearl, you just knew that you were in for a great time! Right near Mother Murphy’s Boarding House, over the railroad ties, just inside the split rail fence, there was Fast Eddie, the Strolling Pickpocket and Cardshark, wowing many a Hobo with his slight of hand! Yeehaw to convenor Lynn Gerry.

The last of the Ladies Galas held in June, 2000 spelled the end of an era. The party was over.

The social scene moved then from galas to the Celebrity Roast. In 2004 awards went to Pat Bruder, Best Assistant Professional in Ontario and Pelino Scenna, Best Greens Superintendent in Ontario. The evening was comical, it was classy and it was a deserving tribute to Pat and Pelino. June 2005 hosted the retirement of Don Taylor, truly a unique BGCC institution. Members and friends gathered to honor a truly gentle man. In 2006, Professional Trevor Fackrell was chosen Ontario PGA Professional of the Year and in his honour a special evening of Toasting/Roasting was presented to a sold-out crowd in June. In October that same year members gathered again – this time to express their gratitude to Pelino Scenna for his 22 years of loyal service. He was presented with an honorary golf membership.

2008 has brought the completion of a beautiful new clubhouse and members are eagerly looking forward to resuming the social scene. The winds of change are picking up; could it be that we are ready to party again?



A Red Carpet Welcome to the Golden Elegance Gala

Anniversaries

50th — 1972

BGCC anniversaries have always been marked with exuberant celebrations. The 50th year party, A Roaring Twenties Costume Ball on May 12, 1972 was held in the curling rink to accommodate the overflowing number of members and guests. Old and new friends shared a delicious nine course dinner (with more than ample martinis) and danced the night away to a twelve piece orchestra. Everyone went home with a commemorative silver spoon and committee reports suggest that there was to be a presentation of an inscribed gold plated putter but this apparently did not materialize. The Ladies' Executive donated a lovely trophy case to the club which they did again during the 75th anniversary.

60th — 1982

The 60th anniversary was marked with golf and a party. On June 26th, 1982 under the chairmanship of Vince Szabo and Nancy Hayes, a field of 136 golfers took to the course followed by a bang up birthday party with 175 members in attendance for dinner and dancing into the wee hours. The highlight of the event was a giant birthday cake that was 5 tiers high. Everyone received a ceramic coffee mug suitably glazed with the club crest.



75th — 1997

It was the 75th anniversary in 1997 when the club was in the middle of its party years that BGCC showed the world that it really knew how to celebrate. It was concluded early into the preparations that one event was not going to be enough so it was decided to celebrate for the whole year. And what a grand and glorious year it was!! Chair Mary Willard wisely formed a committee of members with social event experience and allowed their creative talents free range and their exuberant energies to flow unbridled. The result was a series of 6 events, each unique but equally exciting. Pelino Scenna, Greens Superintendent, caught the bug and along with staff built the garden that frames the hillside at #18 tee and special anniversary flags flew on the flagpole and on the pins on each green. They were designed by Rick Stanhope.

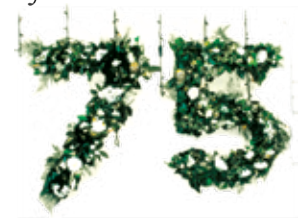


World Of Music - May 23

What a party it was... The opening celebration of our Club's 75th Year! An overflow crowd poured in, wearing their silver keepsake medallions...some being shuttled by golf carts to the front entrance! Waves of music could be heard on Northshore Blvd...flashing lights lured guests inside. Sounds of Music filled the entire club. With passports and souvenir mugs in hand, members travelled throughout the entire Club experiencing a variety of musical performers and different foods of the world. From Elvis to classical artist, John Highley...to soloist Maureen Dwyer...to jazz master George Behr & Co. and the City Light Dancers...to the Square Tones and Brock Lee Bunch, to Burlington's Helen Berlinguette on the keyboard... Minstrel Luigi and the Barbershoppers...to Saturday Night Bandstand. All tastes were satisfied! At intermission, President Bob Hall followed the piper to a table decorated with a cake bearing the new 75th logo and a champagne fountain and glasses for all to toast this opening event of our Anniversary Year. Kudos went to chairs Jackie Wells and Peter Dougherty.

Golden Elegance Gala - June 7

Flowing panels of tulle adorned the foyer of the country club. Large bouquets of white flowers and greenery hung from the walls and over the stairwell. Gold lamé drapes, twinkling lights and table pieces of fragrant white roses filled the eye! The magnificent décor, the elegantly attired guests, dance cards in hand or playing croquet on the lawn, took us back to the early twenties. During dinner, the guests were entertained with delightful flute and harp music and later danced the evening away to the strains of the Royz band. A gigantic cake to celebrate the occasion completed the evening. This special evening was orchestrated by Ladies' President, Dotty Delaney and Social Convenor, Jane Hamer.



Parade And Picnic - July 6

This parade, a club first, wound its way over the course marshalled by the "Big Mower" decked in the 75th anniversary flags. Antique cars, bearing members born in 1922, snaked across the fairways to the beat of dixieland music. The bicycle built for two was really pedalled by one – the lady in the back and the 10 holer float drew gales of laughter. The local marina provided a sailpast. The picnic area in front of the veranda was filled with squealing children playing in sandtraps and rolling down hills until Ms. Turnbull and Ms. Willard directed a series of activities. It wasn't long before some adults joined in...some with the parachute games, others leading a chase of geese into the bay, while others joined Mr. Hamer at the horseshoe pit or Mr. Redgrave at croquet. Supper arrived in lovely wicker baskets and the hill and patio filled with families enjoying delicious treats and the beautiful scenery in the late afternoon sun. An early evening concert capped a perfect day! Janet James chaired this first BGCC picnic.



Parade Stars

The Hickory Golf Tournament - August 10

Cookies and lemonade, sandwiches and root beer for a nickel, golf with hickory shafted clubs, clear blue skies and 144 players dressed in the style and fashion of 1922, all combined to make the Hickory Golf Tournament truly “A Blast from the Past.”

Imagine the scene! The photographer, standing across the road attempting to organize a full field of golfers in front of the flagpole, Northshore traffic stopping in disbelief and then the crowd bursting into song. “Five foot two, eyes of blue.” Was it possible? Indeed it was. This lasting souvenir photo has taken its rightful place adjacent to one taken in the early twenties. There were mobsters, school marms, barristers and golfers...and a lady beautifully dressed for a day at the beach.



A Proper Foursome

Theme music, a wonderful buffet and on course refreshments topped the day. George Leyland and professional Trevor Fackrell organized this unique and fun filled tournament which, sadly, has never been repeated.

“75 and Glorious” — Grande Finale - September 27

Never before in the history of the club had members clamoured for tickets as they did for the “last & final fling” in this 75th Anniversary Year! Never before had an event been held over at the urging of the members! Thankfully, chairperson, Jean Redgrave was able to convince the Burlington Drury Lane Theatrical Productions to repeat their Vaudeville Theatre production.

The clubhouse décor set you in a “speakeasy” for the evening so, before the members could enter through the doors, they were frisked! Mysterious characters were hovering around in the dark recesses of the room putting everyone “on guard”. However, positive forces prevailed and after a sumptuous family twenties style dinner of turkey with the trimmings and jelly roll for dessert, the initial apprehension of the members was forgotten.

Shortly, the show began and what a sensation it was! Absolutely Magical!

Old Cheese & Old Friends - October 24

Members gathered at dusk on a dark October evening to bury the 75th Time Capsule. Young and old came to deposit their messages and keepsakes into the massive container commemorating this year of the 75th. While supping on wine and nibbling on cheese, the guests viewed the first showing of the Anniversary Video narrated by Peter Dougherty which captured the highlights of this memorable year. The scene was being set. Wine and cheese, the time capsule, and the granite grave stone all generated excitement and anticipation of the full fledged burial about to begin.

Then, led by the Jazz men, members gathered on the lawn in front of the flag staff. All was quiet in the dark, still night. Bearing lighted candles, the directors and Anniversary committee members slowly accompanied the time capsule to the burial site beside the flagpole.



The Resting Place of the Time Capsule.

Silence prevailed. Then behold, through the dank and eerie October mist a vintage automobile appeared and circled the driveway. A lanky ghostly figure, dressed in formal attire floated from the vehicle! It was W.J. Southam (President 1923-1928). He appeared just in time to witness the lowering of the Anniversary Flag by the 75th Chairperson, Mary Willard. Stirring strains of the lament could be heard as the piper stood atop the clubhouse roof in the mist of the night. President Bob Hall presented the folded flag to the Junior Champions Courtney Lawson, Matt Lawson and Sean Fraser. These young members were entrusted with the Anniversary Flag until the 100th anniversary year in 2022. The piper changed his tune and the strains of Auld Lang Syne floated out across the Bay followed by a minute of silence.

Then, over the hill came the familiar sounds of “When the Saints Go Marching In” bringing everyone back to a happy state of mind. The march led the crowd into the Great Room for chili, apple crisp and bone-warming spirits.



A Gathering with Hickory Shafts.



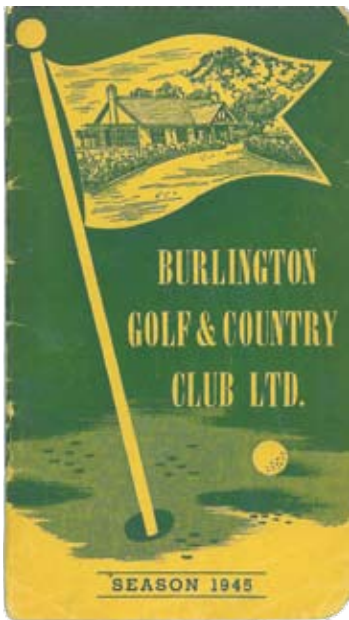
| Replace Turf | | | | Score Card | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----|-------|------------|------|-----|-----|------|----------|-------|-----|-------|------|------|-----|-----|------|
| Holes | Yards | Par | Bogey | Self | Part | Opp | Opp | Stks | Holes | Yards | Par | Bogey | Self | Part | Opp | Opp | Stks |
| 1 | 425 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 4 | 10 | 275 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 14 |
| 2 | 240 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 15 | 11 | 370 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 6 |
| 3 | 535 | 5 | 6 | | | | | 7 | 12 | 465 | 5 | 6 | | | | | 3 |
| 4 | 420 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 5 | 13 | 510 | 5 | 6 | | | | | 2 |
| 5 | 335 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 11 | 14 | 290 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 12 |
| 6 | 195 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 16 | 15 | 345 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 10 |
| 7 | 350 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 8 | 16 | 130 | 3 | 3 | | | | | 18 |
| 8 | 345 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 9 | 17 | 360 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 7 |
| 9 | 190 | 3 | 4 | | | | | 17 | 18 | 285 | 4 | 4 | | | | | 13 |
| Out | 3035 | 34 | 42 | | | | | | In | 3030 | 37 | 42 | | | | | |
| Self: | | | | | | | | | Out | 3035 | 34 | 42 | | | | | |
| Opponent | | | | | | | | | Total | 6065 | 71 | 84 | | | | | |
| Date | | | | | | | | | Handicap | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Net | | | | | | | | |
| STYMIE GAUGE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Original 1924 Scorecard

| HOLE | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | OUT | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | IN | OUT | TOT | HDCP | NET |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|
| GOLD | 431 | 232 | 539 | 424 | 336 | 177 | 492 | 354 | 510 | 3495 | 485 | 190 | 401 | 361 | 392 | 177 | 365 | 425 | 188 | 2984 | 3495 | 6479 | | |
| BLUE | 422 | 211 | 530 | 401 | 323 | 146 | 469 | 346 | 498 | 3352 | 468 | 169 | 377 | 351 | 368 | 166 | 350 | 410 | 180 | 2839 | 3352 | 6191 | | |
| WHITE | 395 | 160 | 440 | 362 | 313 | 130 | 447 | 332 | 444 | 3023 | 448 | 146 | 344 | 338 | 328 | 140 | 265 | 310 | 153 | 2472 | 3023 | 5495 | | |
| MEN'S STROKES | 5 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 15 | 9 | 17 | 7 | | 8 | 18 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 12 | 4 | 14 | | | | | |
| PAR (ALL TEES) | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 37 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 34 | | 71 | | |
| WOMEN'S STROKES | 5 | 17 | 3 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 1 | 13 | 7 | | 6 | 18 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 16 | 12 | 4 | 14 | | | | | |
| WHITE | 395 | 160 | 440 | 362 | 313 | 130 | 447 | 332 | 444 | 3023 | 448 | 146 | 344 | 338 | 328 | 140 | 265 | 310 | 153 | 2472 | 3023 | 5495 | | |
| RED | 296 | 155 | 430 | 357 | 313 | 124 | 435 | 314 | 430 | 2854 | 438 | 121 | 354 | 299 | 320 | 60 | 255 | 305 | 140 | 2292 | 2854 | 5146 | | |

2008 Multi Tee Scorecard

TEE TIME



The First Roster

“Golf is in part, a game; but only in part. It is also in part a religion, a fever, a vice, a mirage, a frenzy, a fear, an abscess, a joy, a thrill, a pest, a disease, an uplift, a brooding melancholy, a dream of yesterday, a disappointing today and a hope for tomorrow.

Golf is (also) companionship and feud, friendliness and fury, ambition and despair. It is concentration, disintegration, inflammation, elation and desperation. In short, it is the Soul of the Race with the cover taken off.”

Excerpts from: The Duffer’s Handbook of Golf by Grantland, Rice and Clare Briggs - 1996

The Early Days

In the summer of 1924, when the Club opened all 18 holes of their much anticipated golf course for full membership play, a golf committee was formed with Dr. H. A. Robinson becoming the first Club Captain and Dr. Bruce C. Sutherland Vice-Captain. The ladies were organized by their Club Captain, Mrs. W. H. Montague. Tournaments of note at that time included Opening Day (Captain’s and Vice-Captain’s Day), Closing Day (President’s Day), Club Championship, Father and Son Tournament, and a Scotch Two-Ball competition. Other popular events at that time included weekly ball sweeps (competitions played for prizes, usually open to all members) and monthly medal golf rounds. Many trophies were donated by well known local companies including Firestone, Hamilton Dairies, Hamilton Spectator and International Airways.

On August 30, the Official Grand Opening of the club was celebrated with an exhibition of first class golf by four professionals and four leading amateurs. Included were pros Nicol Thompson of Hamilton Golf and Country Club, Alf Sims of Chedoke Golf Club, J. B. Kinnear of Glendale Golf and Country Club and Burlington’s own Andy Anderson. George S. Lyon of Lambton, C. S. Jones of Scarboro, R. F. Martin of Hamilton and Arthur Dorman of Chedoke made up the amateur foursome. Over the years Burlington joined with other local clubs to play Interchange matches. These tournaments ran for a number of years but were eventually discontinued when other new events demanded more time on the competing golf courses. In 1933 an agreement was reached with Lookout Point Golf Club in Fonthill for a yearly home and home golf event which was quite successful and lasted for many years.

| Hole | Yards | Par | Club | Members | Open |
|-------|-------|-----|------|---------|------|
| 1 | 435 | 4 | 425 | 5 | 15 |
| 2 | 240 | 3 | 235 | 4 | 15 |
| 3 | 540 | 5 | 530 | 5 | 1 |
| 4 | 420 | 4 | 415 | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | 345 | 4 | 340 | 4 | 12 |
| 6 | 155 | 3 | 130 | 3 | 18 |
| 7 | 460 | 5 | 430 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 360 | 4 | 350 | 4 | 10 |
| 9 | 200 | 3 | 185 | 3 | 16 |
| Our | 3155 | 35 | 3040 | 38 | |
| 10 | 275 | 4 | 270 | 4 | 14 |
| 11 | 422 | 4 | 407 | 5 | 7 |
| 12 | 495 | 5 | 480 | 5 | 3 |
| 13 | 515 | 5 | 505 | 5 | 13 |
| 14 | 310 | 4 | 305 | 4 | 12 |
| 15 | 350 | 4 | 345 | 4 | 11 |
| 16 | 185 | 3 | 155 | 3 | 17 |
| 17 | 370 | 4 | 325 | 4 | 9 |
| 18 | 360 | 4 | 335 | 4 | 8 |
| IN | 3302 | 37 | 3127 | 38 | |
| GRAND | 6457 | 72 | 6167 | 76 | |
| NET | | | | | |

Signed _____ Attested _____ Date _____

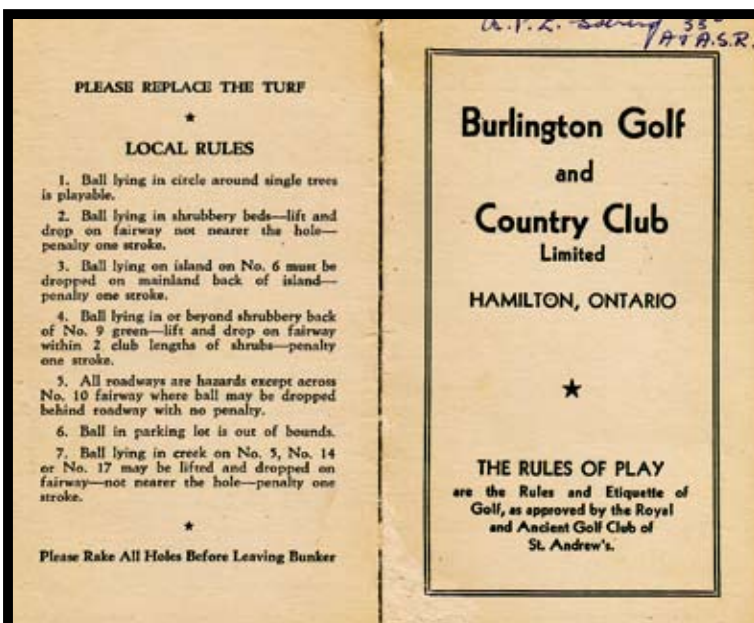
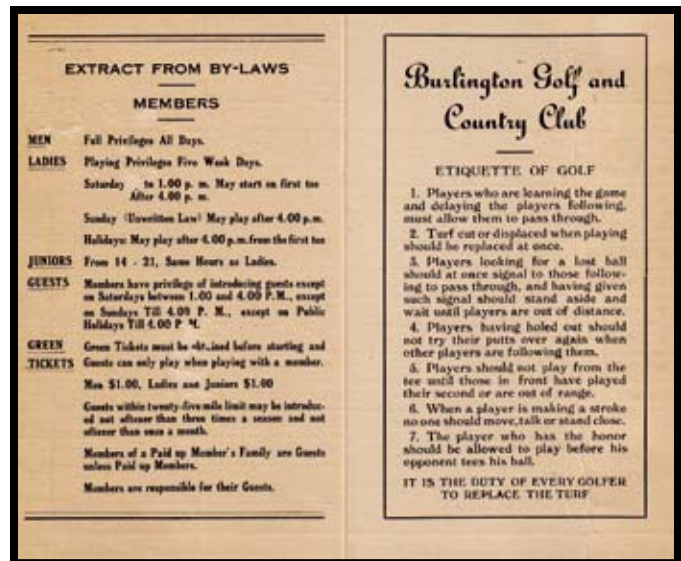
— STYMIE — MEASURE —

Men's Golf

Tournaments

In 1934 Burlington made plans to hold a major Invitation Golf Tournament that proved to be a great success. Many of Ontario's best low handicap amateur players were invited and interestingly, from the 100 plus entries the most were from Toronto's finest golf clubs. Players spoke very favourably about this beautiful course located by the lake and complimented its great condition. This tournament did more to favourably advertise Burlington Golf and Country Club than any other event to this date. Scored as a 36 hole competition, it is played on one day and is still a regular fixture on the annual list of events that attracts the province's best amateurs. In 1947 Gerry Kesselring, one of Ontario's leading golfers at the time, won the Burlington Invitation. By 1952 the tournament was attracting so many good players the Ontario Golf Association decided to make it a qualifying event for the prestigious Willington Cup Matches with the winner being given a spot on the team.

Note: The Ontario Willington cup team is made up of four men chosen by the OGA to represent the province in interprovincial matches against other provinces and is always held during the Canadian Amateur Championship. During the early 1940's a large number of club competitions were cancelled because of the War and the only club competition held at that time was the club championship. The Burlington Invitation continued, but was cut down from 36 holes to 18.



Hamilton Address!

By 1944 many club activites started to return to normal and the Hamilton and District Interclub Team series was introduced. Included were five local clubs, Burlington, Ancaster, Dundas Valley, Glendale and Chedoke. It was a home and home series with six golfers competing from each team. In the first two years, Burlington won the event with Nick Wisnock, a new member of the club, leading the way (Nick Wisnock later changed his name to Nick Weslock). Nick later became one of Canada's most outstanding golfers.

During the 1985 Invitation Tournament, member Mike Fraser was on the old par 4 - 18th green, putting for a birdie, when a ball rolled up on the green from #18 tee and into the hole. Mike missed his birdie but his boyhood neighbour, friend and golf rival, member Jim Carr had just aced it. On other occasions, Jim aced the #2 and #11 holes and had a two on the par 5 - #9 hole. All from the back tees.

In 1946 an arrangement was made with the Brookfield Country Club in Buffalo for an annual home and home series. This International tournament consisted of 25 players from each club including the Pro. This very popular and competitive event between the two friendly clubs still exists today.

Men's Club Championship

This tournament is a fixture that has been in existence for as long as the club but by the 1950's the format had become unwieldy and it became a rather unpopular event, attracting a relatively small field of entries. Up to this time it was 54 holes with 36 holes qualifying on two days chosen by the player with the final round on a following weekend. In 1973, John Davis suggested a new format whereby the tournament would play out on three consecutive days on Labour Day weekend. This became an instant success with the total entries almost doubling the previous format.

A few years later the course rotation underwent a change by starting the tournament at #9 hole. This allowed the #18 hole of the tournament to end up at the Par 3 adjacent to the clubhouse. Each year on Labour Day crowds grew to watch the participants finish and later to gather in the clubhouse for tournament presentations. This format still continues today and is as popular as it was at its inception.



Championship Trophy

Easson Memorial Tournament

During the 1970's and 1980's the Easson was one of the most popular men's tournaments. It was started in 1971 and named after Frank Easson, the long time Club Steward. It was a Calcutta style event with participants purchasing their own or other four member teams. One of the highlights was the Friday night stag on the night prior to the tournament. Teams were auctioned off and members had the choice of bidding to purchase their own team or letting other players purchase their whole team and then ending with half ownership in their own team. Many teams were made up of players who had played together in the past and usually ended in the winners circle. These teams were odds on favourites and usually auctioned at a very high price which raised the total purse of the tournament. By 2001 the total amount in the auction was in excess of \$30,000, but interest in this tournament then dropped off considerably. So, in 2005, the format was changed from 4 man teams to 2 man teams, but the tournament has never again regained its original popularity.

Louis Cole Tournament

In 1978 the club introduced another important tournament honouring another long time employee, Louis Cole. The format of four man teams, all drawn with different handicaps, was very popular as it gave members an opportunity to play with members that they didn't usually play with. All the tournaments since the beginning of the club had been sponsored by local companies, some for many years, including Firestone, The Hamilton Spectator and Supertest Oil. But by the time of the Louis Cole Tournament, there were no longer any outside sponsors so entry fees had to be charged to each participating member to cover the cost of the tournament.

Fun and Games

In 1968, the Captain's Committee decided to add some colour to Opening Day. Usually for this event two bars were set up at different locations for members to buy their drinks. The committee decided to name these two locations the Oasis. Two desert style tents were set up at different locations and members dressed in authentic Arab costumes tended to the bar in these tents. What a sight!

A Touch of Fame

In 1960, the late Carl Bastedo, a popular club member, travelled to the US Open golf tournament which was being held that year in Columbus Ohio. Carl was well known for his association with the Ontario Golf Association and also was known to have close contacts with some of the US touring pros. While attending the golf tournament, he convinced three players to participate in an exhibition match the following week at BGCC. These were the colourful Doug Sanders, Julius Boros and the ever popular Chi Chi Rodriguez. To fill out the foursome they invited Al Balding to join the group. Al was active on the Pro tour at the time. The news of these pros coming to BGCC travelled quickly and a large crowd came out to see this event. Bob Black, a relatively new member at the time, vividly recalls details of that day even though it took place 47 years ago. Boros and Sanders teamed up and Balding and Rodriguez teamed up. Rodriguez was up to his usual antics. Upon sinking a good putt he would brandish his putter like a duelling sword. Sanders showed up dressed completely in bright green. Even his shoes were green and he always had a white towel around his neck. At the end of 9 holes Sanders disappeared for about fifteen minutes and then reappeared dressed completely in purple, even purple shoes, and promptly started tearing the back nine apart by shooting seven under par. At the end of the round the pros retired to the driving range where they put on an exhibition of difficult shots and also demonstrated some trick shots. The crowd in appreciation of their efforts gave these men a prolonged ovation.



Oasis Bartender

CPGA Tournament

In 1973, the Canadian Professional Golfers Association awarded the Burlington Golf and Country Club their National Championship. This was the first time that this prestigious tournament was ever held in Burlington. Included in the field were well known touring professionals George Knudson and Al Balding. Also in the field was Mike Fraser, a young professional from BGCC. Club Professional John Davis was given the honour of playing the first round with George Knudson. Winner of the tournament was the well known Pro, Bob Panasiuk.

Ladies' Golf

Golf has always been a spirited focus for our women members. Guided by the Executive, the various games committees have organized tournaments for the members and for the community since 1924. The ladies even hosted an interesting 9 Hole tournament in 1955 for blind golfers. They have sponsored Guest Day, as early as 1950. Closing Day in 1959 was a Hard Time Golf Party where the golfers wore costumes and played a 9 Hole obstacle course with left-handed drivers and darning needles placed around the hole on the green! In the 1960's, Opening Day took place in May in the afternoons, followed by dinner. The event was often a 9 Hole tournament front and back. It was called "Scotch Golf" where long time members were paired with new members. At times, the format was a 9 Hole 2-ball foursome. In the 40's, Fun Day was popular. The theme in 1949 was a masquerade. It was reinstated in 1960 after a lapse of some years. It was a 9 Hole obstacle tournament with the purpose of "a lot of laughs and meeting old and new friends". Eighty-one participants brought white elephant gifts to exchange at lunch! It is reported that "only the best survived the rules".

Tournaments

BGCC hosted the 26th annual Hamilton District Ladies Golf Tournament in 1962. There were 125 entrants from clubs in Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines, Oakville, Kitchener and Simcoe. In heavy rain, Sheila Collins, Dundas Valley Golf and Country Club won with 78. Also in 1962, BGCC hosted the District Tournament of Champions when lady champions from six area clubs competed on a Sunday.

Burlington to Host Canadian Pro Golfers



Mayor George Harrington, left, and Burlington Centennial Committee chairman Leo Podetz look over plans for the upcoming CPGA championship tournament with tourney director Dave Zink, second from left, and Burlington Golf and Country Club pro John Davis. This will be the first time the Canadian professional golf championship has ever been held in Burlington

Photo courtesy: Hamilton Spectator

Club Championship

The Club Championship was started in 1924. Originally, it was 4 rounds from mid September to early October. There were no flight divisions. All of the players competed for one trophy, regardless of their handicap. In later years, the championship tournaments were sometimes played in June. In the 50's, the play was Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday. Today, this tournament consists of 3 days, played in early August and has 4 flight divisions as well as the Championship level.

District Tournaments

The Hunter Armitage Tournament started in 1933 to encourage ladies to golf. Jimmy Hunter, professional at Glendale Golf Club and Jack Armitage, professional at Waterdown Golf Club sponsored it. The format continues today as 2 team best ball play. It is reported that when BGCC hosted this tournament in 1950, the men's section kindly loaned their locker room to the ladies. Marion Minns, President in 1959, hosted 256 entrants for this tournament. Over the years, BGCC has hosted this tournament 10 times. For years, the ladies' section hosted an annual invitation tournament as well. Handicap groupings were 1-12, 13-18, 19-24, and 25-30. Driving and putting competitions were included as well as team winners. Usually there were around 300 entries with 160 players. In 1955, BGCC hosted a 5-day affair, the Ontario Ladies' Championship. Marlene Stewart, Ada MacKenzie, Shirley Woodley and Rae Milligan of Jasper competed. Ada was 9 times Ontario titleholder and had won when it was previously played at BGCC 28 years before. Competition between Brookfield Golf and Country Club, Buffalo, started in 1945. A return game was played each year.

BGCC ladies have also played in the Jessie B. Dixon Tournament since 1934. Jessie and Helena Spears started it for ladies with handicaps under 15 to experience match play. The original clubs were Ancaster, Burlington, Dundas, Glendale, Chedoke and Waterdown. Today, Galt and Beverley have replaced Ancaster and Waterdown. The cost was \$1.00 for day members and \$0.25 for Business Ladies and the matches were played on Sundays. In 1951, the cost was increased to \$1.50 for 5 games. Today, the cost is \$175, including a cart, prizes and a banquet at closing. Jessie Dixon was a member of both Glendale Country Club and BGCC.

Another ongoing tournament is sponsored by the Canadian Ladies' Golf Union. It is a low net tournament, (8 rounds are recommended) with the best of 4 rounds counting towards the winner. The intended prize by the CLGU was one spoon for the season's winner. There was a misunderstanding by the Executive for several years; they awarded a prize for the winner of each round! The CLGU was very confused as to why so many spoons were needed. The name was later changed to CLGA, Canadian Ladies Golf Association, and today the organization is called the Royal Canadian Golf Association, Women's Division. They award a pin to the winner for the season and the Ladies' Executive awards a cash prize.

John's Observation

John Davis summed up the possible success of lady golfers in general and in particular, ladies at BGCC. He was quoted in the Hamilton Spectator as saying lady golfers could be as successful as males from 100 yards in, except for 2 faults – lack of practice and not knowing how to swing as hard as they are physically capable. He recommended practising 30 minutes per day to increase the swing speed. This quote continues to be pertinent today.

Trophies

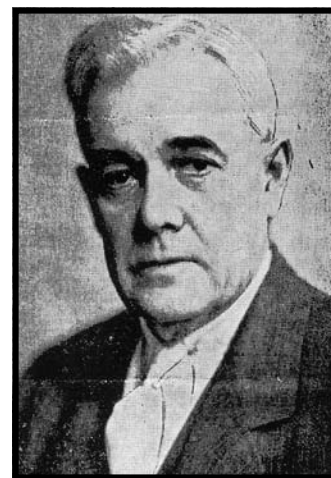
The Ladies' Executive is proud of their carefully maintained trophies. The original championship trophy was the Janet Ripley Cup. Mrs. Ripley was a member in 1924. The first year it was awarded was at a dance at the Connaught Hotel in Hamilton. This trophy was retired in 1955. From that year to 2004, Jean Husband, President 1988-1989, in memory of her mother, Elizabeth Heagle, President 1951-1952, sponsored the Championship Trophy. It was first won by Jackie Moro Rosart and last by Francine Davis. The Ida Diggins and Wentworth Trophy were for match play. The Janet Smith and Elsie Moore Cup were for 2 medal rounds. The Margaret Orr Trophy was for a 2-ball tournament. In 1955, the Kay Pickett Trophy was awarded for seniors of 50 years of age and older. It was a 2 medal round, low gross score, tournament. These trophies have been retired. Today the Anniversary Trophy, a partner 2-ball competition and the Jackie Rosart Trophy, an individual competition, are year long match play tournaments. Two Hunter Cup trophies have continued throughout the years for ladies who have been most successful in lowering their handicaps. The President's Trophy is match against par and the Vice President's trophy is for low net.



Elizabeth Heagle Trophy

The Robert Johnston Tournament

The Robert Johnston Trophy, established in 1924, is the only ladies competition to run continuously through the years and remains a very coveted trophy, attracting a large field of players. It is a 2 round, low net tournament. Robert Johnston was a founding member of the Board of Directors in 1922. The 2008 championship trophies are: Star of Hope, championship; Nino Novacco W(h)ine and Shine Memorial, A Flight; Pamela Eves, B Flight; Friendship Trophy, C Flight; Fore the love of Golf, D Flight. These trophies are sponsored and renewed for sponsorship every 5 years.



Robert Johnston

Mixed Golf

Over the years, Mixed Golf has contributed hugely to the very fibre of the social structure of BGCC.

Tournaments

Mixed Calcutta

The late Dick Kelso, a longtime member, was very instrumental in starting this event in 1986. It was a true draw with two couples forming a team. The format was the combined score of the best ball of the men and the best ball of the women. One of the most popular aspects of the tournament was the betting on the night before the event when all the couples in the tournament would gather at the club to witness the draw and then make their bets in pari-mutuel fashion. It became a very exciting tournament.

MacArthur Mixed Two Ball Tournament

From the very beginning of the club in the 1920's, there was always a mixed 2 ball alternate shot tournament each year. The competition was a one day event usually held in May. In 1970 it was decided to make this a match play event. In order to make a draw, a qualifying round of 18 holes was held with 32 couples advancing to the first round of the tournament. The qualifying round in itself became a very popular event. In 1986 the format changed from alternate shot to couples' best ball and in 1990 was re-named the MacArthur Trophy Mixed Two Ball Tournament. Dr. MacArthur sponsored this event from 1977 to 2004. The tournament still exists today as the Mixed Match Play event.

Davis Cup Tournament

In 1970 John Davis recognized the need for another good mixed golf event and that year introduced the Mr. and Mrs. Tournament. This was a 54 hole event played on three consecutive weekends. The final round was played on a Saturday that concluded with a dinner and dance. The name of the tournament was later changed to the Davis Cup. It was a very popular event and retained the same format until John Davis retired in 1992. In 1993 the Mixed Calcutta Tournament, which had been in existence since 1986, was renamed the Davis Cup. The format for this event was a mixed net better ball total of two males and two females. There was pari-mutuel betting on the two couple teams which was very popular.

Mixed Member Guest

This type of tournament was very popular at many other private clubs but had never really received approval at BGCC, possibly because of the perceived high cost. Dick Kelso was again mainly responsible for initiating this tournament in 1989. This event was a success from the start and is still popular with a full field of members and their guests.

The Parent & Child Tournament

BGCC has had a Father and Son tournament every year since 1924. There is only one other men's tournament with that much longevity and that is the Men's Club Championship. In 1997 Trevor Fackrell put forth a proposal to have the Tournament renamed Parent and Child which would allow for the inclusion of mothers and daughters. Initially the size of the field was disappointing partly due to the dying vestiges of male chauvinism in the golf world, but each year it continued to grow to where it became a much larger event than the original Father and Son Tournament. The popularity of this event is due to the many options it offers (mother/son, father/daughter, etc) and has become much more of a family day. Today, to accommodate the large field, the groups tee off in eightsomes (4 balls) instead of the sixsomes (3 balls) previously.

Cross-Country Golf

Cross-Country Golf was the brainchild of a group of members who, in late November, had to get in one last shot at tournament play. Each year there were entries from a few men and ladies, as well as one of the assistant pros, who couldn't resist the challenge of a different type of layout. The designers presented 13 holes which were played over a mixed-up course layout. For example, participants had to tee off on the practice fairway tees and play to #9 green. And imagine this, they had to tee off on #3 tee and play to any hole on the putting green. One year they played the course backwards – for example they teed off in front of #5 green and played to #4 green. The tournament was enjoyed by enthusiastic members who finished their game with a welcome pot of chili and prize presentations. The tournament was a Fall feature from 1992 to 1994.

Simply the Best

Over the years, BGCC's membership has produced some very good golfers who have represented our club well in outside tournaments. These players also serve as inspiration and motivation for those with higher handicaps. But above this level, there is a very small elite level of player who brings a standard of excellence to the playing field that becomes widely recognized throughout the sports world. BGCC has produced two such players.

Nick Weslock

In 1944 and 1945 Burlington won the Hamilton and District Interclub Team series with Nick Wisnock (later Weslock), a new member of our club, leading the way. Subsequently, Nick became one of Canada's most outstanding golfers. He grew up in Windsor and early in the War moved to Hamilton where he became employed in a munitions factory. He was a member of Burlington from 1942 to 1946 and during that time won the club championship four times as well as winning the Burlington Invitation in 1945.

That year he moved to Detroit but after several years returned to Hamilton where he started a very successful business. He returned many times to play the Burlington Invitation, which he won seven times in total.



Nick Weslock

Jackie Rosart (née Moro)

It was a very young Jackie Rosart who joined Bill Chinnery's Saturday morning group of members' children who, on payment of 10 cents, had lessons with the pro. After a lesson the children were encouraged to play holes 10, 11 and 12 to practice what they had been taught. The course was not nearly as busy then and of course the kids were instructed to step aside as soon as they noticed a member. Jackie still remembers running excitedly into the proshop to report the first time she broke 20 on the 3 holes. This was just the beginning; she was hooked! She became a full fledged junior member as a young teenager in 1945 and now in 2008 she remains an enthusiastic and active member.



Jackie Rosart

Her accomplishments and victories are far too numerous to mention. She started off in outside junior tournaments where she made her mark by winning the Ontario Juniors' twice. Then came the first Ladies' Club Championship which she won while still a junior and since that day she has never been beaten in any Ladies' Club Championship that she entered, having racked up more than 30 victories in spite of the fact that she took 10 years off to raise her family. It is interesting to note that when she first won she was a junior and some 40 years later she was still winning as a senior.

After leaving the ranks of the juniors, one of her most satisfying wins was the Ontario Match play which was quite a marathon because you had to qualify in medal play to enter the match play segment, then play several rounds of match play before being named champion. Her high finishes in the Ontario Amateur Tournaments earned her membership into the Ontario Team twice. As a representative of Ontario she has played in every province in Canada except Newfoundland, an omission she is rectifying in 2008.

Jackie's record as a senior is also as impressive having won the Ontario Seniors' Amateur and been runner-up three times in the Canadian Senior Women's Amateur Championship. She has also distinguished herself in numerous tournaments in the USA where she qualified 10 times for the USGA Senior Women's Amateur. In addition, she has extended her activities to Ireland and Scotland where she played in the Irish Senior Women's Amateur, and the British Senior Women's Amateur where she came third in a strong international field. In 2006 she played in France and she plans to play competitively in Spain in 2008.

When you talk to Jackie about her outstanding record as a competitive golfer over a span of fifty or so years she downplays it with characteristic modesty stressing only that she was fortunate to have had the opportunity to play in so many different places and make so many firm and long-lasting friendships.

As an ambassador for our club and our representative in many tournaments, she certainly has done us proud.

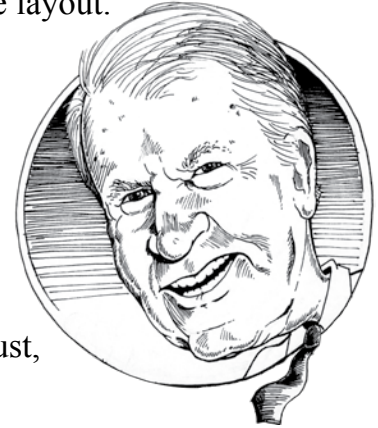
Course Records

The competitive course record for BGCC was set by Bob Panasiuk in 1964 with a 64. A. J. Earthorne matched this in 2000 for the women. Professional John Davis matched the 64 in non competitive play and Brad Chisholm beat the record in 2005 on the new layout with a 62. Don Cranston had a 62 in match play also, but it was not in the order of the layout.

The Statesmen

Club 60 Golf

Nothing can compare to the good fun and enjoyment that the participants of Club 60 enjoyed in its early years. It was this very vision that inspired member Cliff Chisholm to found this club in August, 1976 for he believed that the camaraderie in golf was as important as playing golf itself.



Cliff

The original Executive committee included founder and chairman, Cliff Chisholm, vice chairman, Alex Nelligan and secretary, Bill Grant. The three stringent qualifications for membership set up by the committee included:

- Member of Burlington Golf and Country Club
- Age - 60 and over
- 59 and under
- Employed or Unemployed

The first year there were 2 tournaments and this increased the following year to 5, held once each month from May to September. The most popular event of the year was the Member Guest day when there were always 100 or more players in attendance. 1980 saw the beginning of appointing convenors to be responsible for running each of the five monthly events and the format was always a four man scramble. By 1982 the average turnout per tournament had increased to 84 members.

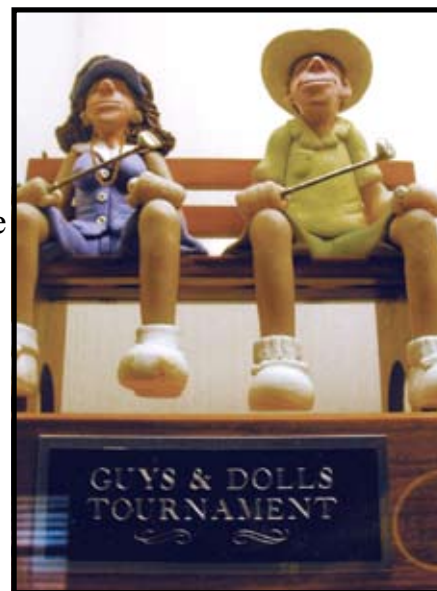


Bert Kay accepts the keys from John Davis for "Furthest From the Hole"

After golf, the players would retire to the clubhouse for luncheon and prizes, where Ed Hudson and his four man band would entertain and Bert Kay would be prone to reciting "Dangerous Dan McGrew." Because the tournaments were always short of funds, awarding prizes for the achievements of the day was always a bit of a dilemma. Consequently, it was not uncommon to see a fellow with an enviable score carting home a basket of tomatoes donated by George Thorpe or a six pack of beer donated by Gaye Stewart!

In time, Club 60 became well known for reaching out to young golfers. In 1981 they introduced a new activity known as “Klubs for Kids”, under the direction of Cliff Chisholm. The project involved the refinishing of old clubs donated by members for the use of aspiring Junior golfers and by 1984, 500 old clubs had been processed. Every golfer of that era remembers the barrel placed on the path at the rear of Cliff Chisholm’s house on the white tees of #18 which was used to collect the Kids’ Klubs. After 7 years of dedicated and faithful service, Cliff Chisholm resigned as chairman and was succeeded by Jim Simpson who held the position for three years.

Club 60 operated into the early 1990’s with the same format, five events per year, but the attendance began dropping off from that of the early years. Many of the old guard had departed and the younger retirees were more interested in playing serious golf than the fun and games of the old Club 60. In 1994 Mississauga Golf Club approached Peter Weber, then chair of Club 60, proposing that BGCC have an annual interchange. This was accepted by both clubs and the first interchange event was held at Mississauga Golf Club in July, 1995. It was not difficult to get Burlington members to sign up for this event as they welcomed the opportunity to play this great course. This interchange helped boost the sagging attendance, but it was still not enough as the club felt they needed many more players to make up a shotgun start for each of the five tournaments. In 1997 the Ladies’ Section invited the men for golf and lunch on a Tuesday to play in a tournament called “The Anniversary Tee”. After lunch the ladies entertained with a skit called “The Male of the Species”. The day was so successful that it was decided to make this an annual event and call it “Guys & Dolls Tournament”, with the guys providing the entertainment in alternate years. Their first act was a professional rendition of “Mother Viagra” which was received by the ladies with a standing ovation! The following years featured many show-stoppers such as “King for the Day”, and an Oscar Award show starring Sonny & Cher. The Guys and Dolls Tournament has remained one of the most popular and fun events at BGCC and Club 60 has been involved each year in helping to organize this event.



In 1998 Gaye Stewart, chair of Club 60, approached St. Catharines Golf Club and proposed that BGCC have an annual interchange. St. Catharines accepted and in 1999 the first interchange event was held at Burlington. The trophy donated by BGCC in memory of Cliff Chisholm is given to the winning club each year. By the year 2000, Club 60 was completely restructured. The format of five annual tournaments was gone and there were now four events: Club 60 Opening Day, Club 60 Member Guest Day and the two interchange events with Mississauga and St. Catharines. At this time Club 60, as well as running their own events, was busy helping with many club events including Men’s Invitation, Men’s Member Guest Day, Ladies’ Member Guest Day, Ladies’ Club Championship and the Madge Tournament. Duties at these tournaments include providing spotters on specific holes, running putting contests, operating birdie bets and the pari-mutuel betting.

On May 9, 2001 on their Opening Day, Club 60 celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a total of 128 members including some curling members in attendance. There was certainly a great deal of excitement when Russ Stock scored a hole in one on the 15th hole and won a pre-owned car donated by Jim Stephenson. Today Club 60 is very busy organizing all their yearly events with a committee of ten people who meet once a month.

Club 80 Golf

In 1990 Marty Jones and then golf captain Jim McClellan worked together to form the Super Seniors. The entry rules were also simple. You had to be a BGCC member and you had to be in your 80th year or older. There were five tournaments per year, one held each month during the golf season. Prizes were awarded on the Atlantic System. There was no need to declare an overall champion because every player was already a champion in his own right!

After golf the players retired to the clubhouse for a luncheon where they all discussed memories of older times at the club. Recollections with this group go back a very long way with the likes of Marty Jones, Ed Kenesky, John Stapleton, Dr. Bob Springer, Jack Moro, Bud Gordon and Frank Jones. This tournament continues today with the same format and is still very popular.

Charity Tournaments

Fundraising for special needs in the community has always been an important part of Burlington since inception from a small rural area to the vibrant city that exists today. When our golf course was created in 1922, it set the stage for fundraising in a new way. The membership has always participated in the many charity golf tournaments and charity social events held at our club. The golf tournaments always were, and are to this day, sold out and supported by our members and their guests, as well as corporate sponsors and patrons from the community. These events have combined recreation on the golf course, fine dining in the clubhouse and great fellowship for the participants, while at the same time raising funds for a chosen charity. Our membership is well aware of the need for these events in order to raise funds, particularly for health related facilities, equipment and research projects both in our community and the province.



Club 80 Players

The Miller Memorial

John Davis introduced this tournament in 1971. John had been approached by a good friend and fellow pro George Clifton, to organize a charity tournament at BGCC. At that time Pine Valley Golf Club in Woodbridge, where George was the Professional, was holding a very successful charity tournament in aid of mentally challenged children. When introduced to BGCC it was an instant success and was named the “Miller Memorial Tournament” after Ivan Miller, a sports reporter for many years with the Hamilton Spectator. The first Tournament raised \$7,000 which was used to support a summer camp for these children. The tournament continued to run at BGCC for 14 more years.

The Sgambati

Introduced in 1978, the Fred Sgambati Invitational Golf Classic was the second charity tournament to come to BGCC. Jim Parker, a club member and founder of this tournament, was President of the Canadian Cancer Society Burlington branch at the time. Gathering a few hard working friends to help him, they organized a charity tournament with all proceeds going to the Canadian Cancer Society. It was named to honour Fred Sgambati, who was the national chairman of the Canadian Cancer Society at the time. The first tournament raised \$10,000. Fred Sgambati died in 1981 and the tournament then became a memorial to him. At that time the management of the tournament was handed over to the Rotary Club who have run this tournament ever since. In 2007 \$50,000 was raised for various charities and to date it has raised in excess of \$1,000,000.



The Joseph Brant

In the 1980's The Joseph Brant Hospital, in desperate need of funds, was seeking some fundraising events. George Ryan, a member of the Board of Governors, suggested that the hospital approach BGCC with the possibility of having a charity golf tournament with proceeds going to the hospital. This became a reality when the first Joseph Brant Tournament was held in 1986. It was an instant success with a full field of 144 golfers. After a reception with the Burlington Teen Tour Band and Scottish Pipers, the entertainment at dinner was supplied by well known TV personalities Gordie Tapp and Tommy Hunter. A cheque for \$26,000 was presented to the hospital. Donations from this tournament helped to purchase a new high tech Gamma Camera in 1989 and has continued to the present to raise funds for our community hospital as part of the BGCC community outreach program. As of 2007, this popular tournament has raised \$850,000 for the hospital and its special needs.



The Madge

The "Madge Charity Golf Tournament" was established in 1993 in memory of Madelyn (Madge) Green who had succumbed to the ravages of Breast Cancer. Her friends, under the enthusiastic leadership of Pam Hall and encouraged by Madelyn's husband, Don and their children, quietly founded the tournament. The early September tournaments were played out on the greens of Millcroft Golf Club, a semi private course in the city but even then the largest group of players came from BGCC. In 1997, an opportunity arose for the tournament to make application to the Board of Directors for entry to BGCC, which was subsequently approved.



The mandate of the tournament is to raise funds for Breast Cancer research. These funds are directed to the Juravinski Cancer Centre Foundation in Hamilton to be distributed to local researchers. A secondary thrust is to provide the tools of information to keep women informed as to the latest technological advances and supports. Hence the logo Madge—Make a difference, get educated.

Over the years, the tournament has grown in leaps and bounds, reaching a level that now requires year-round commitment from a very small band of volunteers. Amazingly, some committee members have been with the Madge from its inception and this is a great tribute to their dedication and determination. In 2007, the tournament raised an amazing \$85,000. Over the last 15 years, this tournament has raised over \$700,000, a tribute to the spirit of generosity and sportsmanship that so exemplifies the golf course on which it is played.

Men's Club Champions

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|
| 1924 | Dr. B. C. Sutherland | 1952 | Colin Sharp | 1980 | Gillian Freedman |
| 1925 | Arthur Dorman | 1953 | Colin Sharp | 1981 | Peter Clark |
| 1926 | Arthur Dorman | 1954 | Douglas Jones | 1982 | Stephen Pickfield |
| 1927 | Dr. B. C. Sutherland | 1955 | Jim Thompson | 1983 | Alistair Orr |
| 1928 | Allan Kompass | 1956 | Jim Thompson | 1984 | Don Cranstoun |
| 1929 | Ross Tarlton | 1957 | Larry St. Denis | 1985 | Jim Carr |
| 1930 | Allan Kompass | 1958 | Jan Nelligan | 1986 | Alistair Orr |
| 1931 | B. R. Eyres | 1959 | Larry St. Denis | 1987 | Alistair Orr |
| 1932 | F. M. Buckingham | 1960 | Colin Sharp | 1988 | Alistair Orr |
| 1933 | Marvin Wentworth | 1961 | Jan Nelligan | 1989 | Don Cranstoun |
| 1934 | Marvin Wentworth | 1962 | Larry St. Denis | 1990 | Bill Perks |
| 1935 | Allan Kompass | 1963 | Paul Williams | 1991 | Bill Perks |
| 1936 | William MacDonald | 1964 | Paul Williams | 1992 | Bill Perks |
| 1937 | Douglas Jones | 1965 | Paul Williams | 1993 | Jim Carr |
| 1938 | Jack Brooks | 1966 | John McKee | 1994 | Don Cranstoun |
| 1939 | William Vogt | 1967 | Don Green | 1995 | Bill Perks |
| 1940 | Douglas Jones | 1968 | Paul Williams | 1996 | Bryden Rosborough |
| 1941 | Jack Brooks | 1969 | Paul Williams | 1997 | Brad Chisholm |
| 1942 | Nick Weslock | 1970 | Don Green | 1998 | Bill Perks |
| 1943 | Nick Weslock | 1971 | John McKee | 1999 | Bill Perks |
| 1944 | Nick Weslock | 1972 | Paul Williams | 2000 | Bill Perks |
| 1945 | Nick Weslock | 1973 | Paul Williams | 2001 | Brad Chisholm |
| 1946 | Jack Brooks | 1974 | John McKee | 2002 | Bill Perks |
| 1947 | Gord Wilson | 1975 | Dr. Tun Zaw | 2003 | Brad Chisholm |
| 1948 | Jack Brooks | 1976 | Douglas Rosart | 2004 | Mike Fernie |
| 1949 | Gord Wilson | 1977 | John McKee | 2005 | Mike Fernie |
| 1950 | Douglas Jones | 1978 | John McKee | 2006 | Brad Chisholm |
| 1951 | Colin Sharp | 1979 | John McKee | 2007 | Brad Chisholm |

Ladies' Club Champions

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------|--------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 1924 | Mrs. W. H. Montague | 1952 | Mrs. C. Knapman | 1980 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1925 | Mrs. C. Anderson | 1953 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1981 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1926 | Mrs. C. Anderson | 1954 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1982 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1927 | Mrs. C. Anderson | 1955 | Miss. J. Moro | 1983 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1928 | Miss. M. Don | 1956 | Miss. J. Moro | 1984 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1929 | Miss. M. Don | 1957 | Miss. J. Moro | 1985 | Mrs. Helen Berlinguette |
| 1930 | Miss. M. Don | 1958 | Miss. J. Moro | 1986 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1931 | Miss. L. Sharp | 1959 | Miss. J. Moro | 1987 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1932 | Miss. M. Smith | 1960 | Mrs. B. V. Minns | 1988 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1933 | Mrs. H. W. Sutton | 1961 | Mrs. J. Swarbrick | 1989 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1934 | Mrs. H. W. Sutton | 1962 | Mrs. B. V. Minns | 1990 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1935 | Mrs. M. J. Thompson | 1963 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1991 | Miss. Sherry Rosborough |
| 1936 | Mrs. B. Stephen | 1964 | Mrs. B. V. Minns | 1992 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1937 | Miss. M. Sutherland | 1965 | Mrs. B. V. Minns | 1993 | Mrs. Helen Berlinguette |
| 1938 | Miss. M. Sutherland | 1966 | Mrs. D. Moffat | 1994 | Miss. Kathy Berlinguette |
| 1939 | Mrs. K. McLaren | 1967 | Mrs. A. O. Forrest | 1995 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1940 | Miss. N. Robinson | 1968 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 1996 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1941 | Miss. M. Sullivan | 1969 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 1997 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart |
| 1942 | Mrs. C. Knapman | 1970 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 1998 | Mrs. Bailey Webster |
| 1943 | Miss. R. Galloway | 1971 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 1999 | Mrs. Francine Davis |
| 1944 | Miss. M. Sullivan | 1972 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 2000 | Kathy Perks |
| 1945 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1973 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 2001 | Jackie Rosart |
| 1946 | Mrs. C. Knapman | 1974 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 2002 | Francine Davis |
| 1947 | Mrs. C. Knapman | 1975 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 2003 | Jackie Rosart |
| 1948 | Miss. G. Hill | 1976 | Miss. Mary Willard | 2004 | Francine Davis |
| 1949 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1977 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 2005 | Francine Davis |
| 1950 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1978 | Miss. Kathy Berlinguette | 2006 | Francine Davis |
| 1951 | Mrs. R. Palmer | 1979 | Mrs. Jackie Rosart | 2007 | Lynn Graham |

Golf Captains

Men's Golf Captains

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------|------|---------------|
| 1924 | Dr. B. C. Sutherland | 1953 | Alf Coome | 1981 | Bill Thompson |
| 1925 | Dr. H. A. Robertson | 1954 | Bill Hill | 1982 | Bill Thompson |
| 1926 | H. A. Robertson | 1955 | Jim Morris | 1983 | Mark Hall |
| 1927 | M. D. Warner | 1956 | Denny Wilson | 1984 | Mark Hall |
| 1928 | W. H. Black | 1957 | Howard Somerville | 1985 | Richard Lee |
| 1929 | A. B. Turner | 1958 | Jack Fraser | 1986 | Bill Griffin |
| 1930 | C. E. Wilson | 1959 | Jack Swarbrick | 1987 | Bill Griffin |
| 1931 | C. E. Wilson | 1960 | Bob Johnson | 1988 | Dave Amos |
| 1932 | B. R. Eyres | 1961 | Bob Johnson | 1989 | Dave Amos |
| 1933 | B. R. Eyres | 1962 | Roy Cartmell | 1990 | Jim McClellan |
| 1934 | R. Engles | 1963 | Jan Nelligan | 1991 | Jim Yelland |
| 1935 | R. Engles | 1964 | Tom Biggs | 1992 | Jim Yelland |
| 1936 | M. Wentworth | 1965 | Tom Biggs | 1993 | Jim Gordon |
| 1937 | M. Wentworth | 1966 | Harold Layfield | 1994 | Jim Gordon |
| 1938 | Col. G. T. Inch | 1967 | Harold Layfield | 1995 | Tom Dixon |
| 1939 | C. W. Cassels | 1968 | Bill Christmas | 1996 | Tom Dixon |
| 1940 | C. W. Cassels | 1969 | Fred McCartan | 1997 | Wayne Heslop |
| 1941 | J. V. Brooks | 1970 | Vince Szabo | 1998 | Wayne Heslop |
| 1942 | E. C. Jackson | 1971 | Vince Szabo | 1999 | Dave Galea |
| 1943 | E. C. Jackson | 1972 | John McKee | 2000 | Dave Galea |
| 1944 | Gordon Wilson | 1973 | John McKee | 2001 | Mike Hall |
| 1945 | Gordon Wilson | 1974 | Ken Knapman | 2002 | Mike Hall |
| 1946 | Dave Kinnear | 1975 | Ken Knapman | 2003 | Joe Kennedy |
| 1947 | Cliff Chisholm | 1976 | Peter Reed | 2004 | Joe Kennedy |
| 1948 | Hugh Gorrie | 1977 | Jack Emmot | 2005 | Chris Regan |
| 1949 | Norm Smith | 1978 | Jack Emmot | 2006 | Chris Regan |
| 1950 | Bill Van Sickle | 1979 | Ralph Thompson | 2007 | Ron Goslin |
| 1951 | Chick Mitchell | 1980 | Jerry Walsh | 2008 | Ron Goslin |
| 1952 | Art Burns | | | | |

Ladies' Golf Captains

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|---------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1924 | Mrs. W. H. Montague | 1953 | Mrs. C. J. McKee | 1981 | Mrs. H. G. Martin |
| 1925 | Mrs. W. H. Montague | 1954 | Mrs. J. F. Coome | 1982 | Mrs. J. E. Ruddy |
| 1926 | Mrs. J. C. Diggins | 1955 | Mrs. J. F. Coome | 1983 | Mrs. G. T. Briggs |
| 1927 | Mrs. P. D. Carse | 1956 | Mrs. J. Ryan | 1984 | Mrs. I. Simpson |
| 1928 | Mrs. C. Anderson | 1957 | Mrs. H. Jeths | 1985 | Mrs. W. G. Clark |
| 1929 | Mrs. C. Anderson | 1958 | Mrs. H. Jeths | 1986 | Mrs. B. C. Baggs |
| 1930 | Mrs. L. Donaldson | 1959 | Mrs. J. Swarbrick | 1987 | Mrs. R. H. Broad |
| 1931 | Mrs. L. Donaldson | 1960 | Mrs. J. Swarbrick | 1988 | Mrs. J. E. Emmot |
| 1932 | Mrs. Sulton | 1961 | Mrs. G. W. Spinks | 1989 | Mrs. A. Carre |
| 1933 | Mrs. Brooks | 1962 | Mrs. T. C. Wilkes | 1990 | Mrs. W. R. Bradshaw |
| 1934 | Mrs. W. F. Nicholson | 1963 | Mrs. T. C. Wilkes | 1991 | Helen MacLaren |
| 1935 | Mrs. W. F. Nicholson | 1964 | Mrs. H. R. Kay | 1992 | Helen Berlingutte |
| 1936 | Mrs. E. C. Jackson | 1965 | Mrs. H. R. Kay | 1993 | Barbara MacPherson |
| 1937 | Mrs. E. C. Jackson | 1966 | Mrs. F. E. Sidwell | 1994 | Gail Hooper |
| 1938 | Mrs. H. S. Robinson | 1967 | Mrs. F. E. Sidwell | 1995 | Carrol Wilkinson |
| 1939 | Mrs. H. S. Robinson | 1968 | Mrs. G. W. Bates | 1996 | Joan Roland |
| 1940 | Mrs. G. M. Beley | 1969 | Mrs. R. A. Carlton | 1997 | Arden Sim |
| 1941 | Mrs. G. M. Beley | 1970 | Mrs. R. A. Carlton | 1998 | Maureen Harper |
| 1942 | Mrs. L. Van Buskirk | 1971 | Mrs. G. P. O'Brien | 1999 | Barb Hoecht |
| 1943 | Mrs. E. C. Jackson | 1972 | Mrs. G. P. O'Brien | 2000 | Joanne Naidus |
| 1944 | Mrs. E. C. Jackson | 1973 | Mrs. M. W. McNabb | 2001 | Anne Anderson |
| 1945 | Mrs. H. P. Wright | 1974 | Mrs. M. W. McNabb | 2002 | Sheila Novacco |
| 1946 | Mrs. H. P. Wright | 1975 | Mrs. J. A. Fraser | 2003 | Anita Ali |
| 1947 | Mrs. J. A. Kelly | 1976 | Mrs. D. H. Gates | 2004 | Kathy Fulmer |
| 1948 | Mrs. A. R. Armstrong | 1977 | Mrs. D. H. Gates | 2005 | Val Marshall |
| 1949 | Mrs. H. St. Denis | 1978 | Mrs. W. L. Kennedy | 2006 | Cheryl Craig |
| 1950 | Mrs. H. St. Denis | 1979 | Mrs. R. G. Sterling | 2007 | Lin Chisholm |
| 1951 | Mrs. C. J. McKee | 1980 | Mrs. J. H. Lumb | 2008 | Marg Kittson |
| 1952 | Mrs. C. J. McKee | | | | |



CURLING

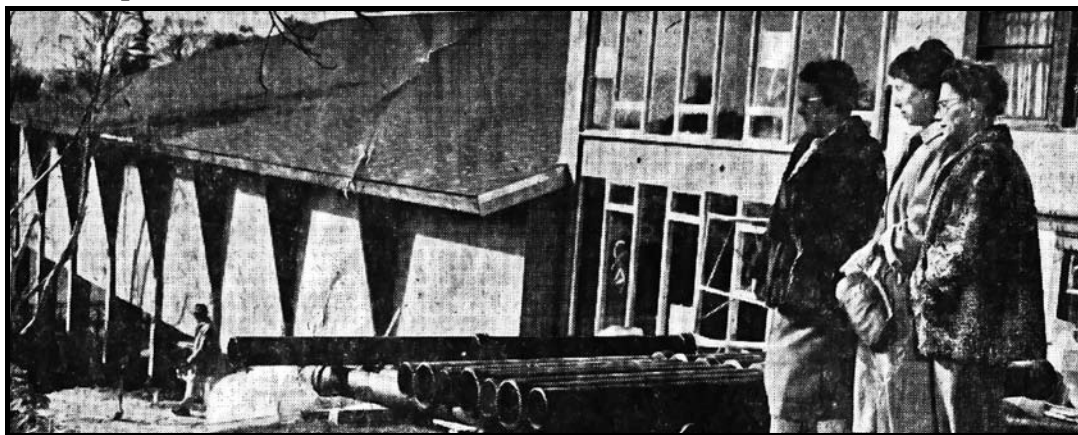
Although curling is played on ice and golf is played on grass, there is a remarkable similarity between the two games. Historians trace the beginnings of both sports to Scotland. Indeed, every loch in Scotland probably can claim that the first rock ever curled was skimmed over its frozen surface on a cold, crusty, morning way back when. The inventive Scots, finding themselves without a leisure-time activity once the weather turned too mean came up with the great game of curling.

They dislodged large smooth stones from the river beds and coastal shores and used them as the rocks. There were no formal rules and the rocks were just thrown down the ice by strong burly Scots in a distance contest. How far could they slide their rocks across the ice? How accurate could they be? Who could skim his rock through the opening between two sticks across the ice? As time passed, the game caught on. Rules were established and refined into the game of curling as we know it today – a game of accuracy, strategy, finesse, and fellowship.

The Rink

In 1959, Burlington Golf and Country Club, planned a curling facility at a cost of \$250,000 dollars. A shareholders meeting to vote on the proposed project was called for January, 9th at Westdale Secondary School auditorium in Hamilton. At the same time, secretary/manager Arthur Harwood reported that club plans to improve the ladies' lounge, snack bar and dining room, would cost between \$65,000 - \$75,000. However, should the members vote for the curling addition, the money slated for renovations would be saved and directed to the building which would house these departments.

If the project was to be approved, six sheets of ice would be more than adequate (At that time Burlington Curling Club had five sheets of ice). Carl Bastedo, a member of the Board of Directors, reported that a committee had studied all aspects of adding the curling section by visiting Weston, Mississauga, St. George's, and Scarboro curling clubs to investigate the combining of a curling club with a golf club. The proposed plans called for an elevated building to join the present club house. Construction of the building started in July, 1959, and rapidly took shape.



Progress on construction of the first curling rink for the Burlington Golf and Country Club is eagerly watched by (left to right): Mrs. Jack Swarbrick, first vice-chairman of the ladies' section of the new curling committee of the club; Mrs. George W. Scott, second vice-chairman and Mrs. Claude Knapman, chairman.

The rink was to be constructed on stilts with the ice surface twenty-five feet above ground. While the \$300,000 project may have appeared a bit unusual, in reality it was rated as one of the finest new rinks in Ontario. This modern curling rink was a unique floating slab, with six sheets of ice, attached to the clubhouse.

The lounge, overlooking the ice was approximately 30 by 80 feet with décor in BGCC standard colors of gold, red and green, complete with mahogany panelling, wall to wall broadloom and other luxurious features. The existing locker room for men, a private lounge and locker room for women, along with ample office space and storage combined with an extension to the club dining room to accommodate everyone's needs.

Carl Bastedo, Building chair, assisted by Clare Pickett, received high praise for the progress of the new structure as well as its planning. Prior to the start of curling, there was also much work to be done by George Scott, chair of the Games committee, Frank Etherington, chair of the Ice committee and Secretary Art Bennet. Members became most enthusiastic partly due to the energies of Dr. Murray Weaver, chair of the Curling Membership committee.

Thus Burlington Golf and Country Club joined a large number of clubs throughout Ontario that had added magnificent curling rinks so that their members could enjoy this fast growing sport.

Curling Secretaries

Gordon Joedicke, 1959–1983

Gordon Joedicke came on board as the curling secretary serving the members most diligently and capably. Gordon was also our good-will ambassador for many years for he was greatly respected within curling circles throughout the country. His professionalism, courtesy, curling knowledge and dedication were a tremendous asset to the club in its early years. On his retirement he noted, "If I live over again an evening so delightful that I like to recall it as often as possible, this is one I will cherish and remember for the rest of my days".

Ron Clark, 1983–1993

Born and educated in Hamilton, Ron, a talented athlete, played junior hockey, baseball and fastball and eventually became a referee-in-chief in minor hockey for seven years in Burlington. He discovered curling in 1968 and served on the Niagara Falls Curling Club board of directors. At BGCC he was President of the men's curling section in 1981-82, the OCA club representative for seven years and Zone representative in 1982.

Wayne Gratton, 1993–Present

Being active in sports at a young age, it appeared that Wayne was destined to enter the working world of sports. He played hockey, baseball, fastball and golf, eventually becoming a ranked amateur player that led him to the Canadian Professional Golf Association at the age of twenty-five. Working as a PGA pro had its benefits but for him teaching was the most satisfying. In 1990, while working at Glendale Golf and Country Club, he was offered the combined position of Associate Golf Professional and Curling Coordinator. Three years later he was hired as the curling manager of BGCC and became involved in the day-to-day operations of teaching and league coordination, as well as overseeing the club's involvement in the World Curling competitions. Over the years Wayne has earned Level 1 certificates in coaching, officiating, ice technician, and has acted as representative for the Ontario Curling Association, HACA and Ford Worlds in 1996. Wayne's professionalism and dedication are indeed a tremendous asset.

Connecting to the Bigger Picture

Swedish Tour – 1976

Burlington has the best ice in the world according to Åke Brag of Sweden. Åke, and 51 other curlers arrived in Burlington to renew friendships and to try out the local ice, en route to Duluth, Minnesota, USA, to compete in the Air Canada Silver Broom Championship. They came from Karlstad, Sweden, which is close to being the Scandinavian twin city of Burlington. The trip was the first half of an exchange trip between the Swedish and Burlington curlers, who would in turn visit Karlstad in 1977 for the Air Canada Silver Broom Championship. Highlights of the brief visit included a civic reception, challenge matches between Karlstad and Burlington, and a ladies' match with the skip of the 1976 Swedish Ladies' Championship Team.

Canadian Brier Week – 1991

The city of Hamilton and surrounding areas became the home away from home for a large number of out of town visitors who bestowed a great deal of praise for both the facilities and the organizers of this event. Members who held key organizing positions included Eric Anderson, Vice President, also in charge of Finance; Jim McGavin, Secretary Treasurer; Judy Partridge, director of Advertising; Marv. Boughton, co-ordinator Ticket Allocations and Sales; Don Garside, chairman of Budget and Purchasing. Dr. Carl Zylak, headed a team as Medical and Dental chairman; Dr. Moe Ali, was a member of a group that included ten physiotherapists, a dentist, and the St. John's Ambulance team; Ron Clark was chairman of Officials; Carol Collingwood was chairperson of Banquets; Margo Bresnahan, managed the Communication Center. This was recognized as a major contribution because so many of our members had helped with the success of the 1991 Canadian Brier in a voluntary capacity.

Russians come to BGCC – 1996

BGCC was the host club for the Russian National Ladies Curling Team in November, 1996. The Russian Federation contacted our club. We helped, through the curling teachers, coaches, and instructors, to work with the team and to organize a tour of the local clubs. Oakville, Glanford, Glendale, Brantford, and Bayview, provided competitive games and Canadian hospitality. The team of Lorraine Manning, Louise Berglund, B.J. Galloway, and Caroline Patterson, played the Russian Ladies' team and won! Our lady members also hosted the ladies while they were here and wished them luck in the European Championship which was to be played in Berne Switzerland.

World Curling Championships – 1995-1996

The World Curling championships are part of history. The great effort by the Canadian Teams and the many volunteers made these “world championships” events to be remembered. Our effort? Outstanding! Highlights of the three days we hosted the Swiss team included matches between Wayne Middaugh's rink and the Swiss Men's team and our ladies, Julie Clifford, Anne Anderson, Marjorie Bowman, and Anne Kouri, taking on the Women's National Champion team of Switzerland. The Japanese Men's Olympic team were here as well and took on five of our men's teams. A major highlight of the Worlds was the Louise Berglund committee who ran highly successful team hosting parties for both the men's and women's teams.

Some Memorable Moments

These are the stories of some of the club's proudest moments, its curling champions and the builders of its fine reputation.

Pypers Move BGCC Into Curling Spotlight – March, 1980

Three Pypers, along with five other Burlington Golf & Country Club curlers, teamed up to win the coveted Ontario Curling Association's “Governor General's Trophy”. The two Burlington foursomes combined their points to defeat two Elmira rinks 9-8 in the two team total points Ontario final in Dundas. One of the Burlington rinks was skipped by Norm Pyper, who was also the vice-skip on the Mac White Ontario Senior Men's championship team. Pyper, along with son Brent, Garry Bulley, and Bruce Merstorf, made up one foursome, while Dwayne Pyper (other son) skipped the second BGCC rink with Andrew Scott, Ross Small, and Jim Hill. For Norm Pyper, it was his second provincial championship. Thirty two rinks from sixteen clubs played elimination games. Burlington, and Elmira became the two remaining clubs. The Burlington win marked the second year in a row that the Hamilton area rinks had captured the Governor-General competition. In previous years, Burlington rinks, skipped by Max Patterson, and Don Ross had won the consolation award.

Tankard Playdowns – 1983

Eric Anderson won the Tankard Playdowns with his fine rink of Al Robertson, Steve Naylor, and Ross Sarrow. They won the Zone 12 Labatt Tankard competition held in Welland. It was the first win since 1974 for a BGCC rink in the 16 rink double knock out draw. The Anderson rink went undefeated to win the “A” side in an exciting final against Dick Rueter’s rink of Welland.

Silver Jubilee Spiel – 1984

BGCC celebrated 25 years of curling in 1984. 32 rinks played in a week-long birthday spiel sponsored by Royal Trust. Undefeated, after five games, bonspiel champions, Carl Zylak, Louise Berglund, Eric Berglund and Edie Zylak, won the Royal Trust Trophy.

Senior Curling

BGCC was selected to host the 1975 finals of the Ontario Senior Championship. Local curlers were particularly proud to host this major event. The local rink of Ken Stewart, Russ Upper, John Arnett, and Jack Patterson, represented the club and won the right to go to the finals. Mac White’s rink won the OCA zone Senior championship. For the third consecutive year, Mac and his sharp shooting veterans, Norm Pyper, Max Patterson, and Bill Grady, had triumphed in the OCA Zone 12 playdowns and earned a slot in the next round between the winners of Zones 9, 10, 11, 12 to be played on February 6th and 7th, 1982. Mac White and his team, with unprecedented achievement, captured the OCA senior championship for the third consecutive year, in the eight rink round robin competition played in Oshawa. They won it with a perfect 7-0 record to qualify as Ontario representatives in the National Championship in Charlottown, PEI.



Ron Clark, Mac White, Norm Pyper, Ken Stewart, Bill Grady

Quebec International Bonspiel–1994

Jim Barnett skipped an all-star district rink in 1994 at the prestigious Quebec International Bonspiel. Canadian and American rinks were represented. Jim, with his teammates, Don Bannister, Stan Sharisi and Ron Rowe, were the grand aggregate winners with a 9-1 record. Jim’s rink also won the Lieutenant–Governor’s Trophy, and the François Jobin competition.

Honouring Two of the Finest

Magical moments were created in the year 2000 when BGCC hosted the Ontario Championship for the Masters and Colts division. A ceremony, with Mac White throwing the first rock and Norm Pyper holding the broom for Mac and two former teammates, Dr. Max Patterson and Nino Novacco, sweeping, reminded us of our proud past when the White rink swept through Ontario, winning the championship.

John McCrae, General Manager of the OCA, Andrew Scott, curling co-ordinator and Steve Henderson, OCA representative, put a proposal together to nominate Mac White and Norm Pyper for the Honourary Life Membership Awards. At the club, in front of family and many friends, Larry Snow, President of the OCA presented the awards, together with a long list of achievements for both men. Not on the list, but dear to many at the club, were the countless hours both men spent developing and teaching members who enjoyed this great sport.



Norm Pyper & Mac White

Accomplishments of Mac White include:

- Skip of the Ontario rink: Canadian Seniors Championship, 1980.
Mac White, Norm Pyper, Ken Stewart, Bill Grady.
- 1981 & 1982 Ontario Senior Championship
Mac White, Bill Grady, Max Patterson, Norm Pyper.
- 1987 Ontario Seniors Championship
Mac White, Norm Pyper, Nina Novacco, John Bryant.

Comaraderie and the Spirit of Good Fun

Spring Thaw Mixed Bonspiel & Show – 1986

Prior to Spring Thaw, The Great West Life Bonspiel had ended the season with several great shows. This annual week long event was a great success! The comments and feed-back from the members in attendance, claimed it to be the most entertaining event for some time. Many talented celebrities (?) took part. Talented members participated, under the direction of Arvid Winther, followed by the able direction of Joanne Naidus, creating an entertaining variety show. Peter Dougherty, the multi talented director, created the entire script for Spring Thaw, supported by Gerry Webb, and his musical ability. Peter continued the show for the next two years. The theme of Spring Thaw was “Rock-Aid”, a direct take-off of the then popular Aid Shows. This was followed by “Miami Skip”, a take-off from the TV series Miami Vice. Other productions followed but gradually the show was phased out.

The Burlington Turtle Bonspiel – 1975

The Burlington Turtle Bonspiel has celebrated its 33rd year. From the very first spiel, there are still some originals who retain many fond memories of friends and good curling. The highlight of the event is the dinner and dance, where the boys bring their young ladies to join in the fun. The “Turtle” bows its head in gratitude to all the excellent curlers, for their continued support, and gives special recognition to the winning rinks. Many stories are told about how the Turtle Club got started, some say it was on the Isle of Man (500A.D.), others place it more recently in the early 1900’s. The desire to start a turtle spiel at the club was fueled by curlers in a meeting after a game. Years before, George Bell had become initiated into the “Turtle Fraternity”, at a bonspiel in Detroit. Initiation became the main focus of the spiel. Ross Pyatt generously offered sponsorship of the event but prior to the event Ross sadly passed away so his family decided to sponsor the event in his memory. Thus the Ross Pyatt Memorial Bonspiel was established. Verna Stewart, herself an avid curler, and potter, produced a trophy of a large green ceramic turtle, sitting proudly on a circular wooden base. This trophy remains in the showcase, and the winners receive smaller versions of the turtle. Invitations to the surrounding area have brought many avid curlers to the club. A Membership card and a turtle badge are presented to the members who have taken the oath.



ARE YOU A TURTLE? REPLY: Y.B.Y.S.A.I.A!

The Whole Darn Family

With their equipment bags and brooms, the kids stride into the clubhouse like seasoned curlers, competing every week while getting instructions. Every Sunday it’s family curling at BGCC. This pattern is reflected throughout the area clubs most Sunday afternoons. The theory is that if you don’t teach the young, curling will lose out in the long run. The club has organized the “Little Rockers” with teaching volunteers for many years. The result excites the imagination of our young curlers, sharing the thrill of competition, forming new friendships, teaching good sportsmanship and insuring the club a future interest in the sport. Competition against area clubs is also regularly scheduled to expand the horizons of these young people.

“Curling is a simple yet very complex game. It is not a game of chance, not a sport of luck, it requires mental alertness even more than any purely physical quality. Curling is controlled action, a game of intricate maneuvers, delicate shots, accuracy and physical conditioning. Curlers play the game to win, but not to humble their opponents. Every curling game starts with a hand shake from each team member and ends with a hearty handshake of friendship and goodwill to both team mates and opponents at the end of the game.”

Courtesy: **Curling: Techniques and Strategy**, by Mark Levoy with Ernie Richardson

Curling Coordinators

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|---------------|
| 1959-60 | George Scott | 1975-76 | John Arnett | 1991-92 | John Rutledge |
| 1960-61 | Carlo Bastedo | 1976-77 | John Arnett | 1992-93 | Jim McColl |
| 1961-62 | Marty Jones | 1977-78 | Austin Grace | 1993-94 | Mal Stewart |
| 1962-63 | Marty Jones | 1978-79 | Ken Robins | 1994-95 | Jack Rooney |
| 1963-64 | Don MacMillan | 1979-80 | Jim Barnett | 1995-96 | Sheena Holmes |
| 1964-65 | Fred Clegg | 1980-81 | Barry Cundall | 1996-97 | Bruce Staz |
| 1965-66 | George Wood | 1981-82 | Carl Zylak | 1997-98 | Gord Juhlke |
| 1966-67 | George Wood | 1982-83 | Ken Maitland | 1998-99 | Andrew Scott |
| 1967-68 | Len Mattik | 1983-84 | Ron Soltess | 1999-00 | Andrew Scott |
| 1968-69 | George Robbins | 1984-85 | Barry Saunders | 2000-01 | Bob Moulton |
| 1969-70 | Ron Fleet | 1985-86 | Gary Bulley | 2001-02 | Bob Moulton |
| 1970-71 | Russ Upper | 1986-87 | Ed Davis | 2002-03 | Don Ross |
| 1971-72 | John Sweetman | 1987-88 | Dick Grace | 2003-04 | Don Ross |
| 1972-73 | Ken Stewart | 1988-89 | Ross Stewart | 2004-05 | Don Ross |
| 1973-74 | Bob Yule | 1989-90 | Drew Nameth | 2005-06 | Bob Nielson |
| 1974-75 | John Arthur | 1990-91 | Eric Berglund | 2006-07 | Bob Nielson |

Curling Lady Chairpersons

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1959-60 | Mrs. C. C. Knapman | 1976-77 | Mrs. R. A. Haggard | 1992-93 | Mrs. F. Dunn |
| 1960-61 | Mrs. J. Swarbrick | 1977-78 | Mrs. A. Newson | 1993-94 | Mrs. N. Jackson |
| 1961-62 | Mrs. G. W. Scott | 1978-79 | Mrs. F. Casey | 1994-95 | Joan Hambly |
| 1962-63 | Mrs. W. W. Cooper | 1979-80 | Mrs. G. K. Davey | 1995-96 | Louise Berglund |
| 1963-64 | Mrs. J. F. Ross | 1980-81 | Mrs. C. G. Friday | 1996-97 | Denise Brazeau |
| 1964-65 | Mrs. W. C. Chick | 1981-82 | Mrs. D. C. Ross | 1997-98 | Joanne Naidus |
| 1965-66 | Mrs. J. A. Shaver | 1982-83 | Mrs. R. J. Carbin | 1998-99 | Ann Howard |
| 1966-67 | Mrs. D. M. Stares | 1983-84 | Mrs. R. Halpenny | 1999-00 | Kathy Fulmer |
| 1967-68 | Mrs. F. C. Sullivan | 1984-85 | Mrs. P. J. Prediger | 2000-01 | Donna Tufford |
| 1968-69 | Mrs. E. V. Brechin | 1985-86 | Mrs. Wm. Hackett | 2001-02 | Julia Dunn |
| 1969-70 | Mrs. R. L. Mones | 1986-87 | Mrs. B. D. Saunders | 2002-03 | Sandra Starchuk |
| 1970-71 | Mrs. H. G. Scaife | 1987-88 | Mrs. B. D. Saunders | 2003-04 | Deborah Sandler |
| 1971-72 | Mrs. J. N. Lucas | 1988-89 | Mrs. J. Eliot | 2004-05 | Rosemary Marble |
| 1972-73 | Mrs. E. F. Jordan | 1989-90 | Mrs. J. Kirk | 2005-06 | Eva Amos |
| 1973-74 | Mrs. J. D. Breithaupt | 1990-91 | Mrs. E. Taylor | 2006-07 | Pat Gibson |
| 1974-75 | Mrs. W. W. Curan | 1991-92 | Mrs. J. Wright | 2007-08 | Nicole Marsh |
| 1975-76 | Mrs. P. F. Doyle | | | | |



THE LAKE VIEW

Changes and Controversy

Over the course of its history, the golf course at BGCC has been relatively stable north of Northshore. Yes, most of the tees and all of the greens have changed; many have been rebuilt; some have been moved. A few of the holes have been lengthened, or shortened and some have had their numbers changed. Basically, however, most of the course is played generally as it was initially laid out.

The area south of North Shore Boulevard is a different story. Here, over the years, occurred most of the changes and much of the controversy. Originally, this was to be the centre of a multi-activity country club. A yacht club, tennis courts, lawn bowling and a clubhouse for social activities were envisioned, along with a world class golf course. Along the way a curling club was born and squash courts were proposed.

Originally two holes existed south of the boulevard: #9 and the #18. They completed Stanley Thompson's two perfect loops, the front nine and the back nine, returning to the clubhouse for refreshment. Both finishing holes were quintessential Thompson. #9 was a long par 3, starting adjacent to the Boulevard from an elevated tee, travelling across the eastern marsh, to an elevated green on the middle plateau. The green was bunkered on either side, in Thompson's fashion. #18 was a short, tricky par 4, with a long carry from the tee, over the western marsh. This green was also on the plateau sitting on an elevated location next to the water's edge beside the bay. Thompson, during his career, created many interesting short par 4 holes and had a propensity for placing greens in lonely, isolated, elevated areas that dropped off sharply to water.

The first major change to the original layout was approved July 25, 1935. Frank Locke convinced the Board to allow him to build new #9 and #18 greens. In 1936, probably with Louis Cole's assistance, he built a new two tiered #9 green north of the original one. This is the green we now know as #18. He also built 2 new tees for this hole. The upper one now serves as our white tees for #18. As well, he built a new #18 green adding 90 yards to the originally 285 yard hole. This green was situated lower, near the eastern marsh, inland from the bunker that presently guards the bay on #17 fairway. #18 shows up on some old score cards as 380 yards because of this green which was in play for about 16 years.

In 1937, Frank Locke built another tee for #9, closer to the bay for better air circulation. This increased the length of #9 to 200 yards. This is the site of our present #18 gold, blue and red tees.

This arrangement of tees and greens south of the Boulevard remained until the early 1950's when it was decided to move the #18 green up the hill closer to the clubhouse. The green that Frank Locke had created in 1936 was wet a great deal of the time because of its location near the swamp. This new green, mistakenly considered by many members as the original #18, remained until 1995. It was located approximately on the original #9 Stanley Thompson designed green.

The two tiered #9 green was levelled by Louis Cole in 1953. It had been very difficult to putt down to the hole, when the pin was on the front portion and from the upper back area the ball would not stop on the green. This is the green that we now use as our #18 green (Louis could have used a few more truck loads of fill to elevate the front portion). Downhill putts still have difficulty stopping on this green.



BGCC Signature Hole

The wonderful area of land at the water's edge, with a magnificent view of the bay and Skyway Bridge, presented an opportunity too good to be missed. In 1994 David Moote was commissioned to develop a long range plan for the golf course, in its entirety, and to specifically design a hole to run along the water's edge. This was to become the BGCC signature hole. Moote's experience working with other Stanley Thompson golf courses qualified him to create such a hole. Interestingly, his father had worked for Stanley Thompson. Unfortunately, in 1989 the eastern marsh had been converted into a pond, creating a very narrow isthmus between the southern end of the pond and the lake. This constrained David's hole design.

Previously, a new, large blue and gold teeing area had been created on the western border at the waters edge, which had been in play as the old #18 tee for several years. In 1994 it became the starting point for #17 that would run the length of the property along the water's edge. The 3 tiered green for this new hole was set at the eastern end of the property, east of the irrigation pond and beside the lake. The fairway ran alongside the bay with several traps bordering either side. A new multi-layered teeing area for the converted #18 hole was created above and north of the #17 green.

At the same time the increased traffic on North Shore Boulevard motivated the re-routing of the course to eliminate two pedestrian crossings of this busy thoroughfare every round of golf. Thus #9 became #18.

The original marsh areas at either end have been gradually transformed. The eastern area first to channels, then partially filled, and most latterly to a pond holding 1,000,000 gallons of water and many of the members' golf balls. The open marsh on the west was gradually filled in with soil from other areas on the property until it was an enclosed pond that citizens used to skate on during the winter months; only to be dredged again to create the present open bay that also attracts many of the members' golf balls from #17 tee. The combination of these two water hazards capture more golf balls than all the rest of the golf course combined. In addition, the western bay has received an electric golf cart and several sets of golf clubs. Howie Neville also wandered too close to the water reservoir, leaving his bag of clubs floating!

The other changes occurred on the elevated plateau, the highest land on all the golf course. It was on this plateau that the original clubhouse was erected. On this original site we have had two totally different styled clubhouses, both frequently and substantially renovated, and have now built the third in another style. And if all this was not enough, in 1959 the golf club built a curling rink on stilts in the western marsh, attaching it to the western end of the clubhouse.

Tom Brain, Greens Superintendent, summed up the situation rather well when he noted "When you are here working every day nothing seems to change but when you read through the historical data everything seems to have changed". Regardless, at the end of the day, our present members have inherited a meticulously tailored eighteen hole layout in the heart of the city.

Our Place in the Community

Sometimes with our single minded focus on golf and curling we tend to overlook that we are not an island unto ourselves, but rather an important segment of the much larger community.

Since 1922, BGCC has been one of the longest established employers in the Burlington area. The club now employs approximately 110 full and part-time staff in peak season for the clubhouse and chalet, administration, course maintenance, pro shop, back shop, starters and the curling rink. As well, in order to service and support our year-round needs, the club acquires a variety of goods and services from various sources in the community.

For many employees from the community as well as the sons and daughters of members, the club not only provided the benefit of summer work, but also the training and discipline that may have helped form their values. Those sought-after summer jobs also assisted many of our part-timers in their pursuit of university, college and special training programs in their chosen field. A number of our current members recall with fondness their youthful days at the club, cleaning clubs in the back shop, cutting greens on the course, serving and bussing in the clubhouse and chalet, and caddying when it was popular.

The Pro Shop has also seen a number of the assistants move on to become head professionals at prominent clubs throughout Canada and abroad thanks to the mentoring of our professionals. Some of the former assistants have made golf a lifetime career. Notables are, Al Balding, Warren Crosbie, Tom Aird, Dave Powell, Tim Cole, Wayne Sisson and Phil Kavannagh, to name a few.

The Greens department has also been a stepping-stone for a number of our Greens staff who have gone on to the Turf Management Program at the University of Guelph, and further, have advanced to become superintendents of Greens at golf clubs throughout Ontario. Though the club has had only a handful of Greens superintendents and golf professionals in its lifespan, it is further proof of the comprehensive training and discipline that continues in all areas of the club's operations when the understudies have had success.

The club is a non-profit organization that generates in excess of \$6 million revenue per year. This revenue is put back into the community covering supplies, payroll, environmental stewardship and improvements that have kept the club a viable corporation since 1922. Local hospitals and research institutions have received significant donations raised by the club through its members and club hosting events. This is a continued tradition that the club commits to year after year and conducts its business quietly within the community.

The new clubhouse is more than a replacement of an old building. It marks a new era in the club's history and what a great testimony by the membership to the club's future. Over \$10 million was invested into this project and this money was spent within the community. All this money was invested into both the Ontario Province and local community.

The club is a well-controlled agronomic environment that cares for 130 acres of park-like lands. Three hundred-year-old trees that tower the property have been preserved by the members over generations. To ensure the best possible environmental and course conditions, the club hires professional management to guide the club through a host of complex daily turf maintenance. The club also engages engineers, designers, turf technicians, arborists and government ministries to ensure the health and well-being of the environment, course conditions and community.

The overall commitment by the club is one of quality, integrity, environmental stewardship of our lands, charity involvement, and reinvesting back into the club. The member's commitment is to leave a well-balanced infrastructure for future members and support for the community as a viable local business. Imagine what would be missing if Burlington Golf and Country Club was not established and cared for by its membership since 1922!

Our Future

A glimpse into the future...and what a bright future it is!

In 2005, the “Way Ahead Plan” was developed as a guide to capital planning and set priorities for the next 5 years. The Clubhouse, Turf Care Centre and a number of golf course renewal projects were included in this strategic document. It outlined initial expenditures for course improvements covered in a long range Master Plan developed by previous Greens committees and subsequently updated with input from Carrick Design Inc. The Board of Directors endorsed the Plan in principle in November 2006.



A combination of restoration and renovation projects were identified that addressed the re-establishment of original and desirable design features lost over time while catering to the requirements of the modern game. The Plan is a vision for the future and attempts to achieve a balance between adaptation of history and modern concepts of design, while addressing the needs of every level of golfer. A deliberate attempt has been made to recapture the authenticity of the original design by exposing existing topographic landforms and reconstructing bunkers to provide a visual and strategic presence.

A number of infrastructure improvements have already been made. An attractively redesigned and expanded cart staging and Pro Shop/Chalet precinct was built in the fall of 2007. A new, larger putting green, new tees at #1 and #9, 2 renovated bunkers at #1 fairway, 5 new greenside bunkers on #10 and 5 at #18 were introduced in the Fall/Spring of 2007-08. New cart paths, curbing and irrigation components were included in the renovation plan for these areas.

The changes made to date certainly have made the holes more challenging, while creating visually stunning views.

Going forward, a number of re-design projects will be presented to the membership for approval. They include a new practice facility and associated changes to the adjacent #11 and #12 holes, as well as changes to #17, #5 and #6 Holes. Timing of this work will take into consideration member preference, course disruption and availability of funds. In addition, a comprehensive infrastructure replacement plan including bridges, remaining cart paths, bunkers and irrigation will be addressed on a yearly basis during the next 5 to 10 years.

The Burlington experience is certainly moving up, notch by notch, as the club fulfills its mission to become one of the finest golf, curling and social clubs in the area – an enviable position to be in and one that Stanley Thompson and everyone else involved with the club over its great history would have been proud of.

What a Great Story to Tell!



THEN & NOW



Frank Easson at the Bar in the First Clubhouse



Today's Version



